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PARENT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS- FOR THE 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear parent/guardian,

Blackburn 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 2022.

Blackburn Primary School is committed to excellence through innovative educational programs to improve student outcomes, put in place to cater for the needs and interests of our students. We make every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all parents. Each year School Council meets to consider the school's financial position and prepares a budget to cover the educational programs, administration, facilities development, and maintenance for the next school year.

Although the Victorian Department of Education and Training provides funding to schools to support contract cleaning, gas and electricity, water rates, telephone, furniture, some repairs to buildings, administration, and some curriculum support, it is not enough to cover what is needed to effectively operate our outstanding programs offered. Your financial contribution is crucial to ensure we have the resources and facilities necessary to successfully provide enhanced educational programs of a standard and quality expected by our BPS community.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. 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 have the ability to offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to continue to provide outstanding facilities and resources for our students, including safe new playgrounds, maintenance of the running track and long jump track, updated classroom readers and library books, resources to support our STEM program and much more. The School Council greatly appreciates all of your contributions so that we can continue to provide outstanding facilities and resources for our students.

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

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cock
Principal

Cindy Kozel
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>Below is a list of items and activities that your child will use to learn the standard curriculum. The items will be ordered in bulk at wholesale prices and distributed to students as needed throughout the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student classroom supplies pack, including a Foundation Targeting Handwriting workbook -Classroom resources for activities, classroom readers and take-home books, class sets of scissors, blocks, counters etc -Resources, equipment and learning materials for LOTE, Physical Education, Science, Classroom Music -Art: materials for take home projects, painting, drawing, workbooks, in class materials -Photocopying and printing of classroom materials and worksheets -Literacy/Maths: Reading Eggs, Essential Assessment, Sunshine Online, ACER reading/maths 	\$238
<p>The iPad program is a very important part of our curriculum and learning. Foundation Students will have access to class sets of iPad during school hours to support the curriculum. A contribution towards the iPad program covers the cost of the iPad lease & licences and apps required to continue to run a successful iPad program.</p>	\$50
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<p>The following areas are not covered by DET funding and are heavily subsidised by the school. Your contributions to these will support the school in being able to continue to provide additional support and resources for our students and families.</p> <p>These funds support the purchase of additional resources for the classroom throughout the year. It also contributes to items including Compass, School Sports Victoria Affiliation, library software, student welfare, student wellbeing programs such as our Chaplaincy program and financial hardship program, the Patch program (cooking ingredients, workbook, patch maintenance), first aid and hygiene, learning support staff, additional grounds support (handyman, lawn mowing, tennis court and running track maintenance)</p>	\$238
<p>School maintenance and improvements</p> <p>These funds are used to manage and maintain the school’s grounds and facilities. DET funding is heavily supplemented by the school to ensure that our grounds and facilities continue to be maintained in a safe and optimal condition.</p> <p>In 2022 these funds will contribute to the purchase of new classroom furniture and the ongoing maintenance of the school grounds and buildings.</p>	\$25
Tax deductible contributions	
<p>Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.</p>	\$50
<p>Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.</p>	\$25
<p>Total Amount</p>	\$626

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>Below is a list of items and activities that your child will use to learn the standard curriculum. The items will be ordered in bulk at wholesale prices and distributed to students as needed throughout the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student classroom supplies pack, including stationery, student diary (G3-6) and writing books. -Classroom resources for activities, classroom readers and take-home books, class sets of scissors, blocks, counters etc -Resources, equipment and learning materials for LOTE, Physical Education, Science, Classroom Music -Art: materials for take home projects, painting, drawing, workbooks, in class materials -Photocopying and printing of classroom materials and worksheets -Literacy/Maths: Reading Eggs, Essential Assessment, sunshine online, ACER reading/maths 	\$208
<p>The iPad program is a very important part of our curriculum and learning. Blackburn Primary School operates a 1-1 iPad program from Grades 1-6. Students have access to iPad during school hours and for at home use, which complements and supports the schools curriculum and learning. A contribution towards the iPad program covers the cost of the iPad lease, insurance, management software, & licences and apps required to continue to run our successful iPad program.</p> <p>In 2020 & 2021, the iPad program has been essential to our students having a positive and successful experience during remote learning, allowing our teachers to provide a continuation of learning and teaching. We value our families support to continue running this program.</p>	\$260
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<p>The following areas are not covered by DET funding and are heavily subsidised by the school. Your contributions to these will support the school in being able to continue to provide additional support and resources for our students and families.</p> <p>These funds support the purchase of additional resources for the classroom throughout the year. It also contributes to items including Compass, School Sports Victoria Affiliation, library software, student welfare, student wellbeing programs such as our Chaplaincy program and financial hardship program, the Patch program (cooking ingredients, workbook, patch maintenance), first aid and hygiene, learning support staff, additional grounds support (handyman, lawn mowing, tennis court and running track maintenance)</p>	\$238
<p>School maintenance and improvements These funds are used to manage and maintain the school’s grounds and facilities. DET funding is heavily supplemented by the school to ensure that our grounds and facilities continue to be maintained in a safe and optimal condition.</p> <p>In 2021 these funds were used to make ongoing improvements around the school including the long jump track, running track, tennis court, grounds maintenance.</p> <p>In 2022 these funds will contribute to the purchase of new classroom furniture and the ongoing maintenance of the school grounds and buildings.</p>	\$25
Tax deductible contributions	
<p>Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.</p>	\$50
<p>Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.</p>	\$25
Total Amount	\$806

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Blackburn 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 Victorian Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis via compass events.

Financial Support for Families

Blackburn 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) & State Schools Relief. If you think you will have difficulty making payments please contact Andrew Cock, Principal, or Jackie Kapoor, Business Manager, via the General Office, to discuss possible support options and flexible payment arrangements. Any information about your financial circumstances, payment arrangements or status will be kept strictly confidential.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact:

Jackie Kapoor / Andrew Cock Ph. 03 9878 1483 Email: Blackburn.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	Foundation	Grades 1-6
Curriculum Contributions including iPad program	\$288	\$468
Other Contributions including tax deductible donations	\$338	\$338
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	<i>User pays - Billed via Compass per event</i>	<i>User pays - Billed via Compass per event</i>
Total	\$626	\$806

Payment methods

Our preferred method of payment is via Compass Course Confirmation. Payment can also be processed at the office using credit/debit card or cash.

If you choose to **pay in full via compass**, the full amount will be deducted on the **same day** that you process your payment on Compass.

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

Refunds

Our school will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents on a case by case basis taking into account the individual circumstances. Generally, we will not be able to refund payments made for items purchased or costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred to a third party. For example, camp costs when a child becomes unwell and cannot attend in circumstances where the payment has already been made or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will make this clear to parents at the time of payment. 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



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.



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).



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.



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.