



Dear parent/guardian,

Blackburn Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Blackburn Primary School's 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. 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 through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school, parent support and contributions allow us to provide strong focus on all key learning areas, particularly literacy and numeracy. We offer a broad range of educational experiences that support the growth of our students academically, socially and emotionally. These enhanced opportunities include our one to one iPad program for Grades 1 to 6 and ICT program for Foundation students, the Patch program, outstanding facilities, strong safety management and compliance measures, well maintained gardens and grounds, three separate playground areas, tennis courts, netball and basketball courts, kitchen garden and quiet play areas.

Our Wellbeing and Chaplaincy program continues to support a large number of students and families which has a far reaching impact on the community as a whole along with a variety of clubs before and after school and lunchtimes.

Two options are available for making tax deductible contributions toward the School Building and Library Funds. The library fund contributions are used to replenish and upgrade our library book supply for students. Funds raised from Building Fund donations have formed the largest contribution towards the Blackburn Primary School Running Track Upgrade due to be completed in early 2024.

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

### **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 Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis. Extra-Curricular Items and Activities include non-curriculum-based school events, optional excursions and camps, optional sporting or music programs and materials that don't relate to the standard curriculum.

Our camps program is designed to take students out of their comfort zones, build stronger interpersonal skills and resilience and improve their communication skills. We offer well renowned sporting and music programs highly regarded by local High Schools and we are committed to preparing our students for the transition into year 7 and beyond.

Parents will be notified of extra curricular activities through our communication portal, Compass and provided reasonable time to pay for these. We continue to encourage all families to use Compass and our fortnightly newsletter regularly to share in your child's educational journey.

Curriculum Contributions: items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><b>Initial Stationery and Individual Items</b> (Consumable classroom items replenished throughout the year)</p> <p>Includes exercise books, scrap books, project books, word book, document wallet, home reading journal/diaries, markers, pencils, sharpener, glue sticks, scissors, crayons/highlighters, erasers, rulers, handwriting books, display books</p>	\$95
<p><b>Consumable materials and supplies for specialist and classroom programs</b></p> <p>English, Maths, Science, LOTE – Mandarin, Performing Arts (Music), Visual Arts, Library, Physical Education, The Patch, Marrung studies and support Includes paints, textiles, glitter, cardboard, craft paper, clay, cover paper, project books, coloured paper, award certificates, laminating pouches, masking tape, glue, planting materials, cooking materials, printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</p>	\$245
<p><b>Online Subscriptions</b></p> <p>Reading Eggs, Sunshine online, Showbie, Essential Assessment</p>	\$40
<b>PLEASE NOTE: IPAD CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE RAISED AS A SEPARATE EVENT</b>	
<b>Total Curriculum Contributions</b>	<b>\$380.00</b>
Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<p>Wellbeing and Student Support – Programs including Chaplaincy, wellbeing, literacy support, library software are not currently covered by Department of Education funding and are heavily subsidised by the school. Your contributions to these areas will support the school in being able to continue to provide additional support and resources for our students and families</p>	\$75
<p>School Assistance fund – These funds will be used to support other families should they suffer hardship. Contributions may be used to assist families with the payment of school or uniform costs. Suggested amount is \$10 per student</p>	\$10
<p>School Grounds maintenance and improvements – the school funds contracted maintenance staff to cover a range of maintenance tasks such as minor fence repair, graffiti removal, ball retrieval, building inspections, playground inspections and minor repairs and a range of other small jobs required on a weekly basis. Suggested amount is \$25 per student</p>	\$25
<p>First aid equipment – A suggested \$10 donation per student will support the cost of providing first aid and hygiene care including band aids, bandages, ice packs, first aid kits and emergency equipment. Suggested amount is \$10 per student</p>	\$10
<b>Total Other Contributions</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
Tax deductible contributions	Amount
<p><b>Building Fund:</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades and maintenance of school infrastructure such as our much anticipated <b>Blackburn Primary School Running Track</b>. Suggested amount is \$50 per family</p>	\$50
<p><b>Library Fund:</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource. Suggested amount is \$25 per family</p>	\$25
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Financial Support for Families

Blackburn Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty. The school makes every effort to keep the costs of items that need to be purchased at a minimum and can do so with the ability of bulk buying.

The School Council of Blackburn Primary School has made a considerable effort to ensure that the 2024 Parent Payment schedule is fair and equitable, allowing for the variety of as many family circumstances as practicable. If you have difficulty making payments, please contact our Business Manager, Skye Thornton, to discuss possible support options and 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, contact:

Phone: 03 9878 1483 or Email: [skye.thornton@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:skye.thornton@education.vic.gov.au)

Those families with eligibility for Camps and School Excursion Funding (CSEF funding) can utilise this support for these costs. Information about eligibility for CSEF and for which school things it can be used can be found using your Compass login under the Community menu in School Documentation. Please contact the Office if you require more information.

Please note if you have previously applied for and received CSEF funding for a specific child, you don't need to apply for 2024 funds. Your application and allocation of funds will automatically be processed in 2024, as long as your family is still eligible. It is important to note, however that if you have a new child starting school for the first time in 2024 you will need to apply for 2024 funding for that child.

## Payment methods

### CompassPay

Blackburn Primary School uses the communication platform, Compass for attendance, excursions, incursions, camps and course confirmation and payment. Families may continue to make multiple contributions throughout the year in manageable amounts should you wish to and we can offer a variety of ways you can do this through Compass Pay.

Credit card payments via Compass is our preferred method of payment however Bpay remains a payment option and all family Bpay reference numbers remain the same as 2023. Should you require a copy of your statement showing your Bpay reference, please contact the office.

### Direct Debit:

Payments can be made directly into our school bank account:

**BSB:** 063 107

**Account Number:** 10020157

**Account Name:** Blackburn Primary School Council

Please note if making direct payments, an email to the school with the receipt and breakdown of how you would like your contributions allocated is essential.

## Refunds

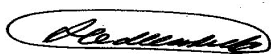
Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance,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

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact the school to make an appointment. Hard copies of any of the above information can be obtained by contacting the office.

Yours Sincerely,



Andrew Cock  
Principal



Anthony De Castella  
School Council President

## **CAMPS SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND INFORMATION**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

**In 2024 the program will again be promoted to families via school newsletters and websites.**

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card successfully validating with Centrelink on either the first day of term two or term three.

The amount payable for eligible primary and secondary students is:

- \$125 for Primary school students.
- \$225 for Secondary school students.

CSEF payments are for the application year and cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

The CSEF system only allows one application per student. Parents in shared custody situations are encouraged to make decisions as to who applies for the CSEF. Schools should not be put into the position of arbitrating in decisions such as this. If the parents cannot decide between themselves who should apply, they should be encouraged to resolve the dispute through the Family Court, or contact the Department's CSEF Helpdesk for more information on Ph: 1800 060 970.

Schools are required to use the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment for expenses relating to Camps, Sport and/or Excursions for the benefit of the eligible student. Some common examples of school-organised programs for which the CSEF payment may be used include:

- School camps/trips
- Swimming and other school-organised sporting programs
- Outdoor education programs
- Excursions/incursions

The CSEF payment cannot be used towards voluntary school charges, nor towards books, stationery, school uniforms, before/after school care, music lessons, school graduations or productions etc.