



7th November 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Each year School Council reviews the budget and sets the level of Essential and Voluntary financial contributions required from parents to meet the needs of the next school year.

Revenue for all State Schools is funded from two sources:

- Department of Education & Training (DET) Student Resource Package (SRP) which pays for school administration, utilities and services, staff salaries, urgent works, and general school operations; and
- Essential and Voluntary contributions from families, this being a major source and significant component of our educational and school program funding.

DET does not provide funding to address all the works and essential items needed for our school. Following careful consideration, School Council has set these contributions per student for 2020 as follows;

ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS: \$450 per student – increase of \$20 from 2019

The *Essential Student Learning Items* charge has increased by \$20 (there was no increase in 2019). This covers the cost of those items the school provides over and above DET State Government funding. All families are encouraged to pay for these items, which include but are not limited to;

- Student stationery such as materials, books, pens, pencils, printed materials for the year
- Materials and consumables for classroom learning
- Information and computer technology requirements including software licenses, computer equipment and technical support necessary to support the learning environment for each class
- Specific items and requirements for all curriculum areas including Art, Language and Physical Education
- Photocopying, educational subscriptions, assessment programs and all other costs associated with classroom and specialist programs.

In order to keep the contributions as low as possible, we will purchase supplies in bulk to obtain competitive prices and ensure all students are using the same materials. This process also allows us to optimise the resources used in all classrooms each year.

We have received just over 90% of Essential contributions this year and thank you for your support. It is vital the school receives payment from all families for the Essential Student Learning Items portion of our school payments.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: TOTAL SUGGESTED AMOUNT OF \$230 per student - no increase from 2019

We rely heavily on Voluntary Contributions and this year to date have received contributions from approximately 50% of our families. This has helped us to ensure our facilities and grounds are well maintained, and purchase valuable learning resources for maths, literacy, library and ICT resources.

BUILDING TRUST FUND: Suggested amount of \$100, which is tax deductible.

These contributions ensure our school facilities are improved and maintained to the appropriate standards.

These contributions support;

- much needed painting of our buildings
- larger scale capital works projects such as the acoustic treatment of the BER building and the Junior School Hall development
- the provision of play spaces that accommodate all student needs and
- employment of a part-time maintenance person to ensure we meet appropriate safety standards.

LIBRARY & LEARNING TRUST FUND: Suggested amount of \$100, which is tax deductible.

These contributions support our increased focus on Literacy & Inquiry. Our Library specialist program supports a targeted approach to English, particularly reading, as part of our current strategic plan and the purchase of:

- literature resources, class sets of books, reference materials
- affiliation fees; and
- the maintenance of ICT hardware and software.

The above are all critical to our goal for all students to find their love of learning.

FIRST AID FUND: Suggested amount of \$30

These contributions support:

- First aid supplies; and
- Employment of qualified First Aid Officers.

Payments are due by 7 March 2020, however, we would welcome payments before **Friday, 13 December 2019** to ensure we have the funds to support our core programs. Payments can be made via Compass ('Course Confirmation and Payments') or in person at the main office.

If you are experiencing hardship or financial difficulties, please contact Pete deWacht to discuss options, including an alternative payment plan. These conversations are always kept confidential.

We truly believe a strong home-school partnership is critical to the success of student learning and engagement and we look forward to continuing the journey.

Further information about parent payments can be found in the School Policy & Advisory Guide:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/parentpayments.aspx>

You can also find our School Council Approved Parent Payment Policy on our school website:

http://www.kewps.vic.edu.au/files/7714/7330/3231/Parent_Payment_Policy_2016.pdf

Kind regards



Pete deWacht
Principal



Mic Wagner
School Council President