



8th November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

2017 School Account (Student Education Contributions)

The *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* provides that instruction in the standard curriculum program is delivered free to all students in Victorian Government schools; this is referred to as 'free instruction'. The Act also grants school councils the power to charge fees for goods and services to support the delivery of free instruction and to raise funds.

Each year our School Council is responsible for the preparation of a budget to provide resources for educational programs, administration, facilities maintenance, and student/classroom resources. The development of this budget is aligned with the Department of Education and Training (DET) policy, 'Parent Payments in Victorian Government Schools'.

The DET provides funding to schools through the School Resource Package (SRP) which is supplemented through locally raised monies via fundraising, the hire of facilities and family contributions. The SRP includes funding for staffing, the standard curriculum program, equipment and operational costs such as utilities, maintenance, ICT costs and resources. Approximately 90% of the SRP funding is required to cover the cost of the employment of staff, leaving the remainder to meet all other operational costs.

As such, the maintenance of our facilities, curriculum opportunities and the means by which they are presented rely on additional contributions from parents.

In 2016, locally raised funds (Parent Payments) contributed towards the following:

- The refurbishment of the sickbay and school hall
- Internal development of the Science Shed as a dedicated learning space
- External maintenance of the gutters and eaves for Building Block A
- Additional Curriculum materials in all learning areas
- Purchasing additional interactive whiteboards
- Additional air conditioning installed
- Continued upgrading of the computer technology and network capabilities throughout the school - additional notebook computers, iPads, servers, switches and peripheral equipment. This has significantly enhanced each child's access to up-to-date technology
- Purchasing of a number of Literacy, Numeracy, Multi-media, Science resources, library books and sport equipment
- Purchasing of additional reading material for our school's Reading Program
- The implementation of the Digital Excellence (Computer skills) program
- Maintenance of schools grounds such as mowing of the oval and general gardening
- New Classroom furniture and
- Landscaping throughout the school

School Council, the staff and Mr Catalano (our Principal) are extremely grateful to all of our school families who have paid their school fees which has made an enormous difference to our school as indicated above.

In 2017 we require your support again as we have some major plans to continually improve our school and also make a significant difference to the education provision offered. Next year we plan to utilise school fees towards the following additional programs and projects:

- Construct an undercover shade structure over the ELC courtyard
- Construct an undercover walkway between the ELC and the new double story portable
- Purchase new Interactive Whiteboards, blinds, furniture and echo paneling for the new classroom spaces
- Install additional “tiger turf” outside the ELC
- Paint the ELC side of the main building
- Create a dedicated Coding and Robotics room in the ELC
- Increase the Science resources across the school as we continue to move to a curriculum which has a greater focus on Science
- Increase the variety and number of reading material to support our school’s Reading program and
- Continue to develop the school’s external facilities such as additional play areas and landscaping

Parent Payments

In accordance with DET policy, School Councils can request payments from parents for student materials and services charges, and for voluntary financial contributions. These payments fall into three categories:

- 1. Essential education items** which parents and guardians are **required** to pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. stationery, text books and associated learning materials)
- 2. Optional extras** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may **choose** whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. Extra-curricular programs or activities such as instrumental music, swimming, camps etc)
- 3. Voluntary financial contributions** which parents and guardians may be **invited** to donate to the school (e.g. grounds beautification, library or building maintenance fund).

The 2017 School Fees

As decided at the August 2015 School Council meeting, school fees for essential education items will remain at \$260.00 per child for the 2016 and 2017 school year.

We also request a voluntary financial contribution towards our Building Fund (Tax Deductable for all families), our new school Gymnasium, and also a Grounds and Maintenance Donation.

Building Fund

The Department of Education & Training grants are insufficient to keep our buildings in their best condition. As a voluntary contribution to your child’s education, School Council provides a tax deductible opportunity to enable you to help improve the school facilities. The Glen Waverley Primary School Building Fund is used solely for the upgrade and maintenance of our school buildings. Contributions over \$2 are fully tax deductible and School Council suggests a minimum of \$30 per family.

New Gymnasium Donation

The Government has pledged a new gymnasium for our school, and to maximize this resource we are preparing for internal development (for example the possible installation of cupboards for sports equipment) and beautification of the grounds surrounding the new building to ensure the school grounds are upheld as safe and versatile to accommodate a variety of learning requirements. The suggested payment is \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each subsequent child.

Grounds and Maintenance Donation

We are most fortunate to have an excellent outdoor environment for our students and staff at Glen Waverley Primary School. Once again, School Council is suggesting a minimum of \$20 per family.

In Summary

Essential Education Items \$260.00 per student

Voluntary Financial Contributions (per family)

- **New Gymnasium Donation** \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each subsequent child
- **Grounds and Maintenance Donation** – School Council is suggesting a minimum of \$20 per family
- **Building fund** (tax deductible donation)- School Council is suggesting a minimum of \$30 per family
- **Total for voluntary family contribution suggested is a minimum of \$70 per family.**

Please note:

The student class materials and supplies levy is tax deductible – for families receiving the Family Tax Benefit Part A.

The Essential Education Items does not include the Flutophone (Years Foundation to 2) and Recorder (Years 3 to 6) as most children should have these from previous years however eligible families can still claim this along with uniform and any other item for educational purposes. The cost of the Flutophones and Recorders are \$10 – payable and collected from the office.

School Council understands that some families may have difficulty in meeting these contributions, Mr. Catalano is available to discuss your own circumstances in a totally confidential manner if alternative arrangements need to be made.

Due Date for Payments

As a means of further assisting families, those who pay their 2017 School Account prior to the end of the 2016 school year will receive a \$10 discount on their essential items. Payment made in 2017 will not be eligible to receive the discount.

We are accepting payment for the 2017 School Accounts from Monday 21st November 2016.

If you elect to pay your 2017 School Account next year, we would appreciate receiving these contributions on or before **Friday, 3rd February 2017.**

Once families have paid their account they will be issued with a bag containing the requisites (exercise books etc) for their child(ren). These will be available for collection from **Monday 12th December 2016.**

Families who would prefer to collect their “book bags” in 2017 may do so on:

- Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th January
- Please note: Thursday 26th January is a Public Holiday and Friday 27th January the school office will be closed.

The School Council, Staff and Mr Catalano would like to thank you for your contribution during the 2016 school year and we look forward to your continued support in 2017 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Paul Van Den Bergen
School Council President

Mrs Savitha Krishnappa
School Council Treasurer

Mr. Frank Catalano
Principal