

14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,

On an annual basis School Council reviews the budget and sets the level of essential and voluntary financial contributions required from parents' to meet the needs for the next school year.

Greenhill's Primary School's income is currently funded from two sources:

- The Department of Education & Training (DET) Student Resource Package (SRP) pays teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with instruction of the standard curriculum program.
- The essential and voluntary contributions from our parents' which are a major source and significant component of our educational and school program funding.

Following careful consideration, School Council has set these contributions per student for 2019 as follows:

## **ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING ITEMS - TOTAL: \$190 per student + Booklist Cost + Excursion Fee**

This amount has been maintained at the same cost as per last year. Paying our Essential Student Learning Items cost ensures that the school is able to continue to provide high quality literacy resources such as home readers, library books and art supplies which are provided over and above DET State Government funding. All parents are asked to pay the Essential Student Learning items payment, which include but are not limited to:

- Materials and consumables for classroom learning and teaching;
- 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, Italian, Music and Physical Education;
- Photocopying, learning subscriptions, assessment programs and all other costs associated with classroom and specialist programs.

To assist with family payments of the Essential Student Learning Items, the excursion fee for Year 5 & 6 will also continue to remain at \$70.

**We have received close to 100% of essential payments this year so thank you for your support.**

**It is absolutely vital that the school receives payment from all families for the essential student learning items portion of our school payments.**

## **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

These are items, activities or services that are **optional** and are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents/guardians may **choose** whether their child accesses or participates in, for example: iPad Lease Program (Years 5 & 6), Instrumental Music Tuition, Choir Program etc.

## **VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

These payments are incredibly important for our school. In 2019 we received voluntary payments from over 40% of our families. This assisted us to ensure our facilities and grounds were well maintained, purchase valuable learning resources in maths, literacy, Library and ICT resources including iPads and Netbooks.

For 2020, we recommend the following voluntary contributions:

- **SUBJECT CONTRIBUTION FUND: The suggested amount for this is \$50 / \$70 OR \$100.**

The suggested amounts also remain the same from last year. These payments support our classroom and specialist programs. The purchase of reading resources, class sets of books, reference materials, affiliation fees and maintenance of ICT hardware and software is critical to our goal for all students to find their love of learning.

- **BUILDING FUND: The suggested amount is \$50 which is tax deductible.**

The Building Fund amount remains the same as previous years and is used to ensure our school facilities are maintained to the appropriate standards. All contributions to this fund will enable maintenance of the school grounds including the employment of a maintenance person to ensure appropriate safety standards are met. DET does not provide funding to address all of the works and essential items needed for our school. These shortfalls are met from locally raised funds.

If you require further clarification of information about parent payments please see the link at 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:

<https://www.greenhillsp.vic.edu.au/policies-and-accreditations>

A '2020 School Fee Notice' which outlines the charges pertaining to your child has also been provided. Payments are due by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, however we welcome payments before Friday 13th December or at the start of Term one next year to ensure we have the funds to support our core programs.

To assist families with managing these payments, we provide the option of an instalment plan. Payments are four equal amounts each term, with no financial penalty. If paying by instalments, the due dates are outlined on the '2020 School Fee Notice'.

#### **Financial Assistance for families in 2020 - Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund (CSEF)**

CSEF provides 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 will be paid for eligible primary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and be tied to the student.

A CSEF application form has been enclosed with this letter. If eligible, complete the CSEF application form, and return with the '2020 School Fees – Notice'. ***If you received CSEF in 2019, and your circumstances have not changed, this fund will automatically be applied in 2020. Therefore, you will not have to reapply.***

If you are experiencing hardship or financial difficulties and are unable to make any type of school payment including those listed in this letter, please contact James Penson (nominated parent payment contact person) at the school 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.



James Penson  
Principal

Kelly Rogel  
School Council President