



FISH CREEK AND DISTRICT
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Dale Banks

Tuesday 11th February 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fish Creek & District Primary School is looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our schools voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum We want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary and we invite all families to contribute via the Curriculum Contribution (previously Essential learning Items). 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 can offer.

Within our school your financial support allows us to organise and coordinate the best possible programs outside of the traditional teaching and learning classroom structure. These financial contributions assist us with the ability to provide additional resources giving our students opportunities that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum and what is provided for by Government funding. Curriculum Contributions allow us to provide subsidies for some of our camps, excursions and sports days, together with our swimming program. Many other programs are made available because of your contributions including Kitchen Garden, Welfare and MARC Library, along with additional resources for our Art, Indonesian, Music, Drama & PE Programs. In past years we have been able to continue to update our resources within our Literacy & Numeracy, Mathematics and Technology areas due to Curriculum Contributions from families. All of these programs running alongside the traditional classroom teaching are imperative so as to provide an effectively balanced and rigorous overall education for your children.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see the one-page overview attached and please contact the office if you would like any clarification or any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Dale Banks
Principal

Howard Prosser
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials, & equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Classroom - pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, writing, graph and scrap books, highlighters, folders, display books, scissors, rulers – delivered to school in January and distributed to students on the first day of school</i> • <i>Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, card, wool, material, wood, beading</i> • <i>Science/ Mathematics – numeracy blocks, calculators, books, stationery</i> • <i>Literacy – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers</i> • <i>Sports – equipment, sports</i> • <i>Indonesian – books and folders</i> • <i>Library – books, subscriptions, MARC Library</i> 	\$115
<i>Online Subscriptions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reading Eggs</i> • <i>Maths 300</i> • <i>Seesaw</i> • <i>Mathletics</i> • <i>Maths Online</i> 	\$20
<i>Kitchen Program</i>	\$20
<i>Curriculum Activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cultural Performances (2 per year)</i> 	\$15
<i>Curriculum Consumables (previously Essential Learning Items)</i>	\$170

Other Contributions

Fish Creek & District Primary School welcomes a voluntary grounds levy, used to support our Grounds & Playground maintenance. This will support a gardener, which reduces the need for frequent parent/guardian working bees.

Other Contributions	Amount
<i>Grounds Levy – Per Family</i>	\$20.00

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Fish Creek & District 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	Amount
Sport – swimming & athletics, winter sport, pool party etc.	\$TBC
Camps, sports and excursions to be scheduled - Excursions, Sleepover, Years 3 – 6 camps.	\$TBC
<i>Extra-curricular Items and Activities</i>	\$TBC

Financial Support for Families

Fish Creek & District Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- *the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to **eligible Health Care Card Holders** (this fund cannot be used for Curriculum Contributions)*
- *Individual Payment Plans*
- *State Schools Relief*

Families who have a valid Health Care Card at the beginning of the school year 28/01/2025 and who have never claimed the CSEF Funding should request a form from the office.

For any family who successfully claimed in 2024, your details will roll over into 2025, unless your card is no longer valid or your details have changed i.e additional family member at school.

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

Irene Gale or Dale Banks Ph 5683 2271

Preferred Payment methods

Direct deposit to the school's bank account. Commonwealth Bank 063 093 Account No. 1000 1282

Cash payments can be made directly to the school office

* Please note we **do not** have Credit Card/EFTPOS facilities at school.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and are 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 Departments Payment Policy and Guidance and any other relevant information.

Approved by School Council February 11th 2025

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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.