Dear Parents,

Silverton Primary School Council is proud of the excellent facilities that students enjoy, and indeed, very few schools match the numerous programs and resources we have on offer to cater for students’ needs and interests. However, these do not come without some extra cost involved.

School Council is also aware of the financial pressures placed on parents from time to time and has therefore recommended keeping Parent Payment to an absolute minimum, even though costs have increased significantly over the past few years.

The Parent Payment for 2017 is made up of two components.

1. Essential Education Items = $120.00
   - INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIES
     Children will receive the necessary individual items of stationery equipment required for their grade level. This will include items such as: Exercise books, paper, folders, etc. $40.00
   - CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (kept in Learning Centres)
     These include items such as: classroom consumables, art supplies, cooking consumables, sporting equipment and science supplies $40.00
   - MATERIALS FOR LEARNING & TEACHING
     This includes textbooks and computer resources $40.00

2. Suggested Voluntary Financial Contribution of $20
   - Digital Technology Upgrade
   - Buildings maintenance and upgrades
   - Grounds and garden maintenance

If you pay the Essential Education Item in FULL by Friday 24th February 2017, you will receive a discount of $10.

The Government allocates funds to provide staff, administration, buildings, children’s desks and chairs, photocopiers, maintenance, cleaning, utilities such as electricity and telephone as well as administrative computers and security. Also provided are limited funds for some materials to be used to support the Victorian Curriculum which is the curriculum schools follow. However, this does not completely cover the cost of running our school.

Over the years Silverton Primary School parents have shown positive support for the school through the parents’ contribution and fundraising efforts. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of parents see the importance of supporting our school. This support leads to considerable improvements being carried out especially in the area of computer technology, literacy and numeracy. This has assisted us in reaching the high level of academic standards in our school and is something we can all be proud of. Your contributions also led to the improvement in the grounds of our school. Very few schools, if any, could match the facilities, resources and environment that we are able to provide.

Your payment will also allow your child to use Mathletics at school and at home a saving of $99.00 if purchased privately. Opportunity is also available for children across the school to participate in and have access to subsidized programs that are run in addition to the basic curriculum, such as the Chess Program, Glee Club, Robotics, Radio, Recording & Television Studio, Vegetable Garden, Art & Mathematics Extension and Instrumental Music/Dance Program.

To enable us to continue the high standard of programs and resources available to your children, we expect all families to pay the Essential Education Items Payment.

The Voluntary Financial Contribution would be used for items such as grounds beautification and garden maintenance, building maintenance and upgrades and upgrading our digital technology. Any Voluntary Financial Contributions of $5 or more are tax deductible.

In reality with 203 school days a year, the full contribution of $120 translates to only 59c per day. This is quite a meager amount when you consider the benefits the children have at this school.

Please note: The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) allocation cannot be used towards Parent Contribution.

Daud Ally
School Council President

Amanda Prosser
Acting Principal
**Understanding Parent Payment Categories**

**What does the legislation say?**

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides for free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

In the Act, a ‘Parent’ includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for a child including parental responsibility under the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

**What do schools pay for as part of ‘free instruction’?**

Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

The standard curriculum for Years F-10 means implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

The standard curriculum for senior secondary schools means a program that enables a student to be awarded a VCE or VCAL qualification.

**What principles govern parent payment practice?**

Educational Value | Access, Equity & Inclusion | Affordability
Engagement & Support | Respect & Confidentiality | Transparency & Accountability

**Schools**

**What may parents be asked to pay for?**

Schools can request payment for

**Essential Student Learning Items**

These are items, activities or services that the school deems essential to student learning of the standard curriculum.

Where practical and appropriate, parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own.

These may also be either:

- **Items the student takes temporary or permanent possession of**
  - e.g. textbooks, activity books, exercise books
  - stationery, book bags
  - student ID cards, locks
  - cooking ingredients

- **Activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend**
  - i.e. travel, entry fees or accommodation

  - e.g. excursions, incursions, school sports, work placements

- **Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in the three Parent Payment Categories:**
  - Essential Student Learning Items
  - Optional Items
  - Voluntary Financial Contributions

- **Schools determine how items, activities and services are classified within these categories based on the learning and teaching program of their school.**

**Parents can invite Voluntary Financial Contributions for**

- e.g.
  - Building or Library fund (Tax deductible)
  - Voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, such as equipment, materials, services.
  - General voluntary contributions

**Parents**

**What may parents be asked to pay for?**

Schools can request payment for

**Optional Items**

These are items, activities or services that are optional and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum.

Students may access these on a user-pays basis.

These may be either:

- **Items the student purchases or hires**
  - e.g.
    - school magazines, class photos
    - functions, formals, graduation dinners
    - materials for extra curricular programs
    - student accident insurance

- **Activities the student purchases**
  - e.g.
    - fees for extra curricular programs or activities, such as instrumental music tuition
    - fees for guest speakers
    - camps, excursions, incursions, sports
    - entry fees for school run performances

- **Items and/or materials that are more expensive than required to meet the standard curriculum**
  - e.g.
    - use of silver in metal work instead of copper
    - supplementary exam revision guides

Support for families experiencing hardship is available at every school and each school has a parent payment contact person. See your school’s policy for more information.

For more information on Parent Payments and Personal Devices, visit the DET website at:
www.education.vic.gov.au
PAYMENT OPTIONS

NOTE: Payment of the full Essential Education Items amount by 24th February 2017 entitles you to receive a $10.00 discount.

A. Pay the full Essential Education Items amount in one lump sum $120.00
   If paying by Friday 24th February 2017 you receive $10 discount $110.00

B. Payment can be made in four quarterly instalments:
   - First instalment – due 24th February $30.00
   - Second instalment – due 5th May $30.00
   - Third instalment – due 4th August $30.00
   - Fourth instalment – due 27th October $30.00

   TOTAL = $120.00

C. Voluntary Financial Contribution (any amount greatly appreciated) $

* For special circumstances, alternative payment procedures may be organised by prior arrangement, in strict confidence, with the School Principal or Business Manager.

Please complete & return with your payment in the envelope provided and a receipt will be issued.

NAME ……………………………………………………………………….. GRADE …………………
NAME ……………………………………………………………………. ….. GRADE …………………
NAME …………………………………………………………………. …….. GRADE …………………

Please indicate your preferred method of payment,
place an X in the box.

☐ Discounted Essential Education Items paid in full by 24th February $110
☐ Full Amount AFTER 24th February $120
☐ Quarterly Instalments - Details above (Instalment Forms will be sent home with dates)
☐ Voluntary Financial Contribution $_______

(Payment can be made by cash / cheque / eftpos / Direct Deposit – Details Below)

PARENT NAME: ………………………………………………… I enclose herewith cash / cheque: $ ………………….

Please charge this to my MasterCard / Visa / Bankcard OR
Card number: _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _   Expiry date _____ / ____
Cardholder’s name __________________________________ Telephone Number ( ) _____________________
Signature of Cardholder _________________________

OR

Direct Deposit Details: BSB 063-244 a/c # 0090-1052
Please ensure your child’s Surname & 'PARENTPAY' are included as the description & return this form with details below

Name: ___________________________________________ Date deposited: _______________________

Reference No. ___________________________________ Amount: $__________

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