**V**oluntary Financial Contributions

*Dear parent/guardian,*

***Murrabit Group School* *is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and* would like to advise you of *Murrabit Group Schools* voluntary financial contributions for *2023.***

Things are changing for parents/carers due to new Department Policies and MGS are now asking parents to provide the individual student classroom resources. Packages are available for your convenience through Kerang Computers. Volunteer Parent Payments will also reflect this change as per below.

We invite parents to purchase an individual student classroom pack for individual students to keep. The school has previously provided individual student classroom materials, but this has changed. These educational items including textbooks, stationery will be available as a package from Kerang Computers, however if parents would like to source the items themselves a list will be provided.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. *Nevertheless, 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 is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.*

Within our school this support has allowed us to run exciting curriculum and specialist programs, have up to date IT and extra curricula experiences at school and through camps and excursions: e.g. a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences; enhanced digital learning opportunities; extended swimming program, the upgrade of outdoor learning spaces and gardens, music and LOTE programs, MARC and MAAC.

The school runs a dynamic integrated technology program. Each student in the school has access to an individual laptop and bank of ipads. As a component of the volunteer parent payments, families that have contributed will have the opportunity to purchase these laptops at the end of Grade 6 at a largely discount price.

Parents are invited to contribute a volunteer contribution at the time of purchase to support the school so they can continue to offer varied and high-level programs. This includes purchasing current digital technologies, STEM and Hand On learning Programs, busing to programs, activities, upgrading and maintaining storage, facilities, and grounds.

For further information on the Department’s Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Gabriele Hogg*

*Acting Principal MGS*

*Angela Morton*

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| **Curriculum Contributions** - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum.  Further to this are many items that are not costed including grounds maintenance, first aid, wellbeing programs, ICT devices, photocopying and additional classroom support and cleaning. | Amount |
| *Classroom consumables, materials & equipment*   * *Art/ Integrated/ Inquiry studies* * *Science, Technology, Engineering –* * *Mathematics –* * *Literacy* | $*20* |
| *Online subscriptions*   * *Mathletics* * *Reading Eggs* * *Essential Assessment* * *Literacy Pro* * *Ipad apps.* | $*20* |
| *ICT devices – provision of devices 1:1 laptops ( fees go towards discounted purchase option in Grade 6)* | $10 |
| *MARC and MACC mobile programs*  *Workbooks, cover paper and some craft supplies*  *Contribution to the cost of maintaining and purchasing books for the library van* | $*30* |
| **Total Curriculum Contributions** | **$*80*** |
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**Curriculum Based Events**

Some*excursions are a required element of the school’s Curriculum. All students are expected to attend for example swimming.*

*We invite you to support our school by making a Curriculum Contribution, so that we can continue to provide these opportunities for all students.*

You are invited to make further contributions to support items and that the school community highly value including grounds maintenance, garden program, chickens, first aid, wellbeing programs, ICT devices, photocopying, additional classroom support and cleaning.

**Educational items for students to own**

*Attached is a list of items that the school* recommends you purchase from *Kerang Computers as a class package* for your child to individually own and use. Volunteer payments can be contributed there at the same time for the above or directly to the school.

**Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis**

*Murrabit Group School* offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.

*The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.*

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| **Extra-Curricular Items and Activities** | **Amount** |
| A direct charge will be made to each student as and when required to cover costs of excursions, camps , visiting performers and special activities. This covers transport, entrance fees and other associated costs. The cost must be paid in full so your child can have access to these extra curricula activities as they are directly charged to the school |  |
| *School camp* We invite parents to purchase camps or excursions on a user-pays basis.  Gr 3-4 $300  Grade 5-6 Canberra $600 subsidised through fundraising | TBA |
| *Special incursions* – 2023 STOMP dance $34 and Circus $7– Term 4 | *TBA* |
| *Excursions to be scheduled – Grade P-2 Echuca, Pioneer Settlement, GRIP Leadership, Art Gallery* | *TBA* |
| **Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities** |  |

### Financial Support for Families

*Murrabit Group School* understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

* the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
* *State Schools Relief (SSR)*
* *Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities*

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

*Gabriele Hogg/ Judith Ficken*

Ph: 0476 910 681 | Email: *murrabit.ps@education.vic.gov.au*

**Total**

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| --- | --- |
| Category | Totals |
| Curriculum Contributions | $80 |
| Other Contributions *(Non-tax deductible)* | $*[parent to complete]* |
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| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities | $TBA |
| **Total** | **$160+** |

### Payment methods

Parents can pay for the classroom resource package and volunteer fee at Kerang Computers or

Parents can source their own required classroom materials for the students and/or

Parents can directly pay the volunteer fee to the school.

Additional volunteer fees are welcomed to continue to run all the abundance of wonderful programs offered at Murrabit Group School.

Direct deposit to the school

BSB – 063 542

Account – 1002 8069

Or via BPay with the code that is on their invoices/statements.

### Refunds

### *Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and 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 Department’s Parent Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.]*

**parent PAYMENTS policy**

**ONE PAGE OVERVIEW**

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|  | 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) and the Victorian Pathways Certificate. * Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school. |

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|  | 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). |

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|  | 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. |

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|  | 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. |

