

MEENIYAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Gene VanderZalm



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Meeniyán Primary School is looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning in 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to advise you of Meeniyán Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2023 and why they are so valuable to our school.

Each year, the Victorian government provides us with enough funds to deliver a comprehensive education. These funds cover most aspects of a child's education and all management costs required by the school. However, the budget does not include funds for student's materials and equipment, nor does it cover money for curriculum activities or subscriptions such as Arts performances and Athletics. To cover these costs, schools are allowed to request an annual voluntary contribution from parents/guardians.

The voluntary contributions that you provide ensure that our school can continue to offer the best possible education for your child. With over 150 students at Meeniyán Primary, the financial impact of these contributions is significant. The contributions help us to provide additional resources that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum and what is provided for by Government funding. They also buffer us from unforeseen events. In 2023, Meeniyán Primary will no longer be home to the MARC library program due the student population growing too big in recent years (must be under 120 students). With its departure goes a library of amazing books and resources. Our school will not be compensated for this change, instead, we will need to begin accumulating a library of books and other resources over the coming years so our students can have the rich literary experiences they once gained through MARC.

We understand the voluntary financial contribution is a significant amount of money. We offer different payment options to suit your needs. We appreciate every dollar that we receive and utilise every cent to enhance the education of our students. Regardless of these payments, schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

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

Yours sincerely,

Gene VanderZalm
Principal

Kate Thomas
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><i>Classroom consumables, materials, & equipment</i></p> <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 directly to school and distributed to students on the first day of school</i> • <i>Visual Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, card, wool, material, wood, beading</i> • <i>Performing Art – instruments, props</i> • <i>Mathematics – numeracy blocks, calculators, books, stationary</i> • <i>Science – stationery, experiment consumables</i> • <i>Literacy – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers</i> • <i>Sports – equipment, sports</i> • <i>Library – books, subscriptions</i> 	\$120
<p><i>Online Subscriptions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mathletics (\$15)</i> 	\$15
<p><i>Curriculum Activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cultural Performances (2 per year)</i> 	\$15
<i>Curriculum Consumables</i>	<i>\$150</i>

Other Contributions

Meeniy Primary School continues to welcome a voluntary grounds levy, used to support our Grounds & Playground maintenance. In the past this has supported a gardener, which reduces the need for parent/guardian working bees.

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

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Meeniy 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, cake decoration, pool party etc.	\$TBC
Camps, sports and excursions to be scheduled, including but not limited to Year Prep – Beach Excursion, Year 1 & 2 Dinner/Sleepover, Years 3 – 6 camps.	\$TBC
<i>Extra-curricular Items and Activities</i>	<i>\$TBC</i>

Financial Support for Families

Meeniy Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and we offer 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 27/01/2023 who have never claimed the CSE Funding at Meeniy Primary School should request an application form from the office.

Any family who successfully claimed in 2022, your details will roll over into 2023, unless your card is no longer valid or your details have changed.

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

Gene VanderZalm Ph: 03 5664 7382 | Email: gene.vanderzalm@education.vic.gov.au OR

Allyson Opray Ph: 03 5664 7382 | Email: allyson.opray@education.vic.gov.au

Preferred Payment methods –

- **Direct Deposit** – This is our preferred method, directly into our school bank account. This is the most secure method, giving you an immediate receipt and alleviates the need for students to bring cash to school. Our bank details are as follows:
Account Name: Meeniy Primary School
BSB: 063 518 (Commonwealth Leongatha)
Account No. 10071649
Please make sure you put enough detail on the reference field so we know who you are (remember we have multiple families with the same last name)
- **Cash/Cheque** to the school office in a sealed envelope with family details written on the front. Cash payments can be made directly to the school office.
- **EFTPOS** at the school office - Please note a 1.4% surcharge will be applied to over the counter payments, and 1.7% for payments made over the phone.
- **BPAY** – details available on your family statement (by request)

PAYMENT SLIP:

FAMILY NAME _____

Curriculum Contributions: No. of children _____ @ \$150 per child \$ _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Grounds Levy @ \$20 per family \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT FOR 2023 \$ _____

PAYMENT TYPE (Please circle): **Direct Deposit** – Preferred / Cash / Cheque / EFPTOS

DIRECT DEPOSIT Receipt Number: _____

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 standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- 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.