



St Paul the Apostle

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOREEN

80 Bassetts Road Doreen 3754

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Monday November 22 2017

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL FEES AND STUDENT LEVIES 2018

It is with much enthusiasm that we look forward to commencing the 2018 school year, as a vibrant school community within our Christ the Light parish.

Earlier this term, our Parish-School Finance Team and our School/Parish accountant gathered to review the 2017 school financial year and to recommend the level of school fees and levies required to meet our financial commitments in 2018.

Fr Martin Ashe – Parish Priest along the principals of the three sister schools within our parish, Marita Richardson – St Joseph's School Mernda, Phillip Smith - St Mary's School Whittlesea and Phil Doherty – St Paul the Apostle School Doreen then met together to endorse their recommendations with advice from our school accountant Mr Rodney Kwok.

School fees and levies are made in accordance with the Annual Financial Guidelines provided by Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM) and in line with the recommended increases to the CPI (3.6%) and the Educational CPI in 2018. We have adjusted our School Family Fees and Student Levies accordingly, which along with Government funding, help us to meet our financial needs.

Each Catholic school has its own Socio-Economic Status rating, determined by the Commonwealth Census and local school data, which determines the amount of funding a school receives from the Government via Catholic Education Melbourne.

The higher the income, qualifications and assets of the residents living in a particular suburb, the lower the funding received by the school from Catholic Education Melbourne for that particular year and vice versa. Hence, school fees, levies and fundraising must be structured into the school's budget to compensate for any shortfall in Government funding.

Based on the current Socio Economic Status rating for our school and for our sister schools, the Parish –School Finance Team has structured next year's school fees and levies to assist our schools to meet their ongoing financial obligations.

In recent years, School Fees and Levies have remained comparable with those of our neighbouring Catholic Primary Schools and "like" schools and have assisted in enhancing facilities and programs, providing much needed resources in recent years for the St Joseph's and St Mary's school communities.

With a similar Socio Economic Status rating, it was recommended that the 2017 School Family Fee for our schools in Mernda and Doreen would remain closely aligned. However, our Student Levies will vary between the two schools as they are determined by a number of factors based on local needs, learning initiatives and other budgetary requirements.

The Student Levy contributes to a number of key learning areas and initiatives including Excursions/Incursions, Swimming and Innovative extra curricula activities, stationery, curriculum budgets, buses, photocopying, printing, art supplies, classroom requisites and areas such as RE, PE, Science, Numeracy, Student Wellbeing, Literacy, Numeracy, ICT etc.,

NB: Camps and sacramental programs in Years Three-Six will be invoiced separately.

Whilst we hope that no student is disadvantaged because of their parents' inability to pay tuition fees, as a matter of justice we believe that all parents should meet their financial commitments as they do with other household bills. Being only our third year, our school community will be unable to accommodate unpaid fees & levies.

An invoice will be mailed home to families in the second week of Term One which will include the Annual School Family Fee, the Student Levy (payable per student) and the Outdoor Education/Environment Levy.

Families can select from a number of suitable payment options– per term (invoices will be sent home at the commencement of each term), weekly, fortnightly and monthly. For your added convenience, EFTPOS, B-pay and Credit card facilities are also available.

We must stress that fee payment is obligatory and part of acceptance by the school to educate your child. The prompt payment of School Fees and Levies will assist us with our very tight budgetary requirements and cash flow throughout a typical school year.

A reminder that the family Parish Contribution levy of \$360, which parents committed to when enrolling their child here at SPA, will be billed separately by the parish.

If you have any queries or would like to arrange another suitable options for payment, please contact Kerrie Densley (Bursar) on 92162000 or kdensley@spadoreen.catholic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Phil Doherty (Principal – St Paul the Apostle School Doreen))

SCHOOL FEES & STUDENT LEVIES 2018

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL FEE: \$1500 per Annum payable per Family

* The 2018 **Annual School Family Fee** represents a **3.6% increase** as recommended by Catholic Education Melbourne.

THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION/ENVIRONMENT LEVY: \$150 per family

Through the generosity and support from families and in particular from our **SPARKLE** team (**S**chool **P**artnerships **A**ctively **R**e-imagining **K**ids **L**earning **E**xperiences), we have continued our works in designing and creating outdoor learning spaces to enhance the children's learning and wellbeing and to build a sense of community and family partnership. This levy remains vital in helping us to fund our long term outdoor learning spaces which could include vegetable gardens, pizza ovens, garden beds, garden furniture, art sculptures, reflection areas and incorporate sustainability design features.

STUDENT LEVY payable per child

This Levy assists us with our classrooms and programs and includes our: buses, swimming and sports programs, stationery, curriculum budgets for areas such as RE, PE, science, numeracy, literacy, library, ICT etc., special events and activities, photocopying, paper, art supplies and classroom requisites etc.,

* As recommended by Catholic Education Melbourne, the **Student Levy** represents a **5.5% increase**.

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| PREP | - \$510 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |
| YEAR ONE | - \$510 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |
| YEAR TWO | - \$510 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |
| YEAR THREE | - \$535 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |
| YEAR FOUR | - \$535 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |
| YEAR FIVE | - \$535 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |
| YEAR SIX | - \$535 (includes an excursion/incursion levy) |

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2018: Families will be invoiced separately

There will be an additional cost associated with the Parish Sacramental programs of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in Years Three, Four and Six respectively. We are delighted to continue with our sister schools, St Joseph's Mernda & St Mary's Whittlesea for the reception of the sacraments.

CAMPING PROGRAM 2018: Families will be invoiced separately

Following on from our very successful camp experience at the commencement of this term, we are exploring a number of venues for our camping program for 2018. Families from **Years Three/Four and Years Five/Six** will receive **an additional invoice as the camp approaches**.

PARISH CONTRIBUTION LEVY 2018 per family: \$360 per family

As a new parish created by the Archdiocese of Melbourne now almost five years ago, the parish of Mernda-Whittlesea incorporating Kinglake and Doreen, relies heavily on the support of families via the parish Thanksgiving (Stewardship) program and the Parish Contribution Levy from school families.

These funds are vital in helping the parish meet the ever-growing demands from families within our pioneering and rapidly changing local community. Parish facilities (including preliminary work for the establishment of a new parish church on Eminence Boulevard/Bassetts Road Doreen and purchasing the land), school facilities (including provision for Catholic secondary education and future building programs), sacraments, centres of worship and outreach programs, need funding to ensure that our parish will have a visible, tangible presence within the local communities.

NB: The 2018 Parish Contribution Levy: \$360 payable per family will be billed separately by the parish.