



St Paul the Apostle

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOREEN

80 Bassetts Road Doreen 3754

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Monday 9 December 2020

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL FEES AND STUDENT LEVIES 2021

St Paul the Apostle School Doreen

It is with much enthusiasm that we look forward to commencing the 2021 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 2020 school financial year and to recommend the level of school fees and levies required to meet our financial commitments in 2021.

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 I then met together to endorse their recommendations with advice from our school accountant Mrs Sara Luk.

School fees and Levies are determined in accordance with the Annual Financial Guidelines provided by Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM).

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 for our schools.

With a similar Socio Economic Status rating, it was recommended that the 2021 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: **Sacramental programs** in Years Three-Six will be invoiced separately by the Parish.

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.

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), the Outdoor Education/Environment Levy and Camp Levy (Years One-Six).

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

Holders of a Heath Care Card

We invite families who hold a current Health Care card to contact the school to discuss options available for fee reduction relief (\$1000.00 annually) to assist families to meet their financial obligations.

Yours sincerely,



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

SCHOOL FEES & STUDENT LEVIES 2021

St Paul the Apostle School Doreen

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL FAMILY FEE - \$1640 per Annum.

School Fees and Levies at St Paul the Apostle School are used to provide a high quality of education for our children. Our School Fees are based on the recommended fee increases as advised by Catholic Education Melbourne in conjunction with allowances for educational cost increases and our local context. High fee collection rates will enable the ongoing provision of quality Catholic education for all students.

They allow for the provision of:

- Servicing loans for capital and technology projects;
- Teacher support, administrative support and ground staff;
- Essential resources and facilities;
- Maintenance of buildings, grounds and equipment;
- Addressing the shortfall from government payments to Catholic schools

THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION/ENVIRONMENT LEVY - \$150.00 per family.

With stage two construction concluding and stage three commencing in the near future, this levy remains vital in helping us to fund our long term outdoor learning spaces. The master plan which will have provisions for vegetable gardens, indigenous gardens, animal nursery, pizza ovens, garden beds, garden furniture, art sculptures, shade areas, reflection areas and sustainability design features.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LEVY - \$50.00 per family.

This levy assists our school with the provision of the school's Technology resources including all student IT devices, IT support, internet access charges, maintenance and loan repayments.

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.,

PREP	-	\$560	(Includes student levy \$435 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)
YEAR ONE	-	\$560	(Includes student levy \$435 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)
YEAR TWO	-	\$560	(Includes student levy \$435 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)
YEAR THREE	-	\$580	(Includes student levy \$455 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)
YEAR FOUR	-	\$580	(Includes student levy \$455 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)
YEAR FIVE	-	\$580	(Includes student levy \$455 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)
YEAR SIX	-	\$580	(Includes student levy \$455 & excursion/incursion levy \$125)

CAMPING PROGRAM 2021:

Camp for **Years One/Two, Years Three/Four and Years Five/Six** students will be included in your annual invoice. To ensure all children are able to attend camp, special discounts will be available for families with more than one child attending camp.

YEAR ONE & TWO - **\$75.00** (One Day Camping program @ Amberley Lower Plenty : 9.00am – 7.00pm)

YEAR THREE & FOUR - **\$300.00** (Three Day/Two night Camping program @ CYC Phillip Island

YEAR FIVE & SIX - **\$375.00** (Three Day/Two night Camping program @ Phillip Island Adventure Resort

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2021 - Families will be invoiced separately by the Parish

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.

PARISH CONTRIBUTION LEVY 2021 - \$360 per family (billed separately by the parish).

As a new parish created by the Archdiocese of Melbourne now almost six 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), parish house and parish offices, school facilities (including provision for Catholic secondary education and future building programs), sacraments, centres of worship and outreach programs all need funding to ensure that our parish will have a visible, tangible presence within the local communities.