WATSONIA HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Strive for the Heights

YEAR 4 2027 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS – INCLUDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear parents/carers

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Watsonia Heights Primary School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Watsonia Heights Primary School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Tony or Bronwyn.

Principal:	Tony Ryan	0394354617	tony.ryan@education.vic.gov.au
Business Manager:	Bronwyn Finnin	0394354617	bronwyn.finnin@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 0394354617. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Watsonia Heights Primary School
School Council President

Watsonia Heights Primary School
Principal

Watsonia Heights Primary School 2027 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	$430	$

Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	$50	$
Voluntary - Library fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements	$50	$

Extra-curricular items and activities

Watsonia Heights Primary School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events like graduation.

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

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Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
Homework Resources & School Diary-PP#1	**$10.00**	**$10.00**	
Wellbeing Incursion-PP#1	**$25.00**	**$25.00**	
Classroom Excursion/Incursion Activities-PP#1,2 & 3	**$80.00**	**$80.00**	
Cultural Day Incursion-PP#1	**$15.00**	**$15.00**	
Whole School Sports Events – Sports Program-PP#1	**$17.00**	**$17.00**	
Science Day Incursion-PP#2	**$12.00**	**$12.00**	
Book Week Incursion-PP#3	**$10.00**	**$10.00**	
School Concert Program-PP#2	**$60.00**	**$60.00**	
School Camp Program – cost advised during the year	**TBD**	**TBD**	
Representative level sports events advised during the year.	**TBD**	**TBD**	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	**$229.00**	**$229.00**	

Financial help for families

Watsonia Heights Primary School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis. Those who are eligible to apply for the CSEF **must meet both** of the following two criteria or be eligible for special consideration. Only financially means-tested cards are eligible. Eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (refer to the department's policy, Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)), on either the first student day of Term 1 or Term 2. The applicant must be one of the following:

  · a parent or carer who is the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card

  · a student over 16 years who is considered a mature minor and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card). Applicant to use the 16 and over application form. For guidance on assessing whether a student is a mature minor, refer to the department's policy on Mature Minors and Decision Making

  · a parent or carer whose child is 16 or over and the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card but are not considered a mature minor. Applicant to use the 16 and over parent consent form.

For students over 16 years of age and where the eligible card is in the name of the student, the fund is only granted to that student, not their siblings. The due date for the submission of the CSEF Application Form is due no later than the end of Term 2, Friday 25th June 2027.

- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Second hand uniform sales - contact Mel for this support
- *Banyule Community Health*
- *Diamond Valley Community Support*

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact: Tony or Bronwyn

Principal:	Tony Ryan	94354617	tony.ryan@education.vic.gov.au
Business Manager:	Bronwyn Finnin	94354617	bronwyn.finnin@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Payable via Compass

Voluntary Payments:

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

Extra-Curricular Payments:

If you would like to pay for extra-curricular items and activities through instalments, please use the following payment plan/s: Please note that school camps and representative level sport events are stand-alone event costs confirmed during the year.

Description	Due Date	Amount payable
Term 1 Activities-PP#1	Feb 15th	$117.00
Term 2 Activities-PP#2	April 15th	$87.00
Terms 3&4 Activities-PP#3	July 15th	$25.00
Total:		**$229.00**

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 of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information.

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's Parent Contributions policy.