Dear families,

The 2017 payment for Essential Student Learning Items is $240.00

The DET policy defines which school activities are essential and which activities are voluntary. To help explain this we have attached the DET Understanding Parent Payment Categories Information.

PART A - Essential Student Learning Items - $240.00 per student.

This payment includes:
Student supplies that they take possession of and are used in Mathematics, English, ICT, PE, Science, Italian, Art and Inquiry learning.

Some initial student supplies (booklist) are included in the Essential Student Learning Items and will be available for collection, on receipt of payment, from the school on Wednesday January 25th 2017 or Friday January 27th 2017. Collection times 9.00am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm (in the school hall).

EXTRA CURRICULA - EXCURSION AND EVENTS PAYMENTS

Throughout the year there may be excursions and in-school events linked to the curriculum. These may be whole school or learning team events. Payment for these excursions and events are made by families as they occur.

In addition to these excursions and in-school events there are a number of programs that may be offered, relevant to particular year levels, learning teams and sporting events. Information and payment details will be sent to families prior to the start of extra-curricular programs/events.

These can include:
- Camp (Years 3 to 6)
- Year 6 Interschool Sport Levy - covers the affiliation to the District & Victorian Sports Association plus the cost of buses during Terms 1 & 2 - summer and winter seasons to transport children to and from matches.
- Year 6 end of year events – December - including graduation, end of year excursion
- Term 4 extracurricular programs
  - Dance/gymnastics (Years 3 to 6)
  - Swimming (Years Prep, 1 & 2)
- Other extracurricular sporting events – may involve students in Years 3 to 6
  - Cross Country (Term 2)
  - Athletics (Term 3)

PART B - Voluntary Financial Contributions

Pascoe Vale South PS relies on the generosity of its community, through donations and fundraising, to be able to provide the standard of education and quality of programs that your children deserve and our families expect. Community raised funds enable our school to update and extend the educational resources within the school and contribute to necessary additional buildings maintenance for our facilities.

Please be aware that the funding the school receives in its operating allocation of the cash grant, provides for approximately $3,500p.a. of the $15,000p.a. required to fund school grounds maintenance such as inspections and maintenance of playground equipment, mowing of grounds and tree maintenance. Without your support we would not be able to adequately maintain the grounds for students. A contribution of approximately $35 per student ensures these funds are available to the school.

We also need to update/replace sets of classroom furniture in some existing learning spaces, as well as set aside funds for furnishing the new spaces that will be developed as part of the school building project (anticipated to commence late 2017). Furnishing a single learning space costs around $6,000.00 – tables, chairs and other seating, storage cupboards, shelving, display boards. With approximately 10 new learning
spaces expected in the new facilities, the school hopes to raise an additional $60,000 over 2017 and 2018 to provide appropriate furnishings when the new facilities are commissioned. A contribution of approximately $90 per student in 2017 will provide the school around half of the funds required.

General Voluntary Contributions School Council allocates available finances to the priorities and key improvement strategies in the School Strategic Plan.

Contribution to Special Purpose Funds (Donations to these are tax deductible) School Council asks that families make a donation and direct it to one or both of the funds listed below. Pascoe Vale South PS is endorsed by the ATO as a Deductible Gift Recipient to operate a Building Trust Fund and a Library Fund. Donations made to the Building Trust Fund assist maintenance of our school buildings and donations to the Library Fund are used to purchase books for use within learning neighbourhoods, for home reading and the library. A set of guided reading books costs approximately $80 – 100 and individual books between $10 and $40.00. Contributions to either fund are fully tax deductible and for families on or near the top marginal tax rate, this is a very effective way of assisting the school.

We hope that all families will understand how critical locally raised funds are to our school. By contributing in this way, the focus of our fundraising efforts can be directed to special projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments for 2017 can be made:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday December 7th 2016 to Wednesday December 14th 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday January 25th 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday January 27th 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>At the start of the 2017 school year by arrangement with the business manager.</td>
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Payment methods
Payments can be made using cash, EFTPOS (CHQ, SAV, CR), or BPAY. For BPAY you will need to speak with the business manager, Roberta Baseggio, for your Biller Code and Reference Number. Please note: Cheque payments are no longer able to be accepted.

Payment options
We appreciate that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting payment requests. A range of support options are available to parents who have difficulty making payments.

These include:
- Families, who hold a Health Care Card, valid at 1st February 2017, may elect to use Centrepay. Centrepay helps people with Health card and Pension cards to arrange for money to be deducted from your benefits and deposited directly to the school. People can choose the amount; it can be as little as $20.00 per fortnight.
- 2017 Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) information about eligibility and application forms are now available at the office.

Families who do not have immediate capacity to pay are also able to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the school. Please contact our business manager, Roberta Baseggio, for information.

The link below outlines the local application of the DET policy for Parent Payments

Yours sincerely,

Michael Grant (School Council President)   Sue Spurr (Principal)
Pascoe Vale South Primary School

Revenue

~$385,000 pa

Expenditure

Dept. Education & Training

~$245,000

Learning

- Consumables
  - Books / publications
  - Photocopying (Equip. & supplies)
  - Software
  - ICT equipment
  - Furniture / fittings

Teaching

- Prof. development
- Relief staff

Property Services

- Security
- Cleaning
- Rubbish
- Building works
- Grounds works
- Inspections
- First aid

Operations

- Non curriculum consumables
- Utilities
- Communication

Fundraising & Community

Families

~$100,000

Essential Student Learning Items ~$75,000
Voluntary Contributions ~$5,000
Building Fund * ~$15,000
Library Fund * ~$5,000
(* Tax deductible)

Did you know?

- The Department of Education and Training provides about 2/3 of PVSPS’s annual revenue.
- Teachers and staff are paid directly by DET and this cost is not included in PVSPS’s budget. (Except for relief staff.)
- Families and the community provide about 1/3 of PVSPS’s annual revenue.
- 100% of family’s Essential Student Learning Items payment is allocated to Teaching & Learning.
- Donations to the Library or Building fund are tax deductible – a great way to support the school and minimise your tax obligation.
- Family’s Voluntary Contributions are used to help maintain the school and grounds.
- Fund raising currently provides about 6% of PVSPS’s revenue – without the contribution of the fund raising team, the school would need to increase fees, reduce services or provide less equipment.

Financials:

- ~$110,000
- ~$50,000
- $10,000
- ~$5,000
- ~$125,000
- ~$100,000
- ~$25,000
- ~$15,000

(Values are approximate and vary year on year.)
Understanding Parent Payment Categories

### Schools

What does the legislation say?

The Education and Training Reform Act (2006) provides for free instruction in the standard curriculum program to all students in government schools. The Act also empowers school councils to charge fees to parents for goods and services provided by the school to a child.

In the Act, a ‘Parent’ includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for a child including parental responsibility under the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

What do schools pay for as part of ‘free instruction’?

- Free instruction is the teaching staff, administration and the provision of facilities in connection with the instruction of the standard curriculum program, including reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.
- The standard curriculum for Years F-10 means implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F-10.
- The standard curriculum for senior secondary schools means a program that enables a student to be awarded a VCE or VET qualification.

What principles govern parent payment practice?

Educational Value | Access, Equity & Inclusion | Affordability
Engagement & Support | Respect & Confidentiality | Transparency & Accountability

### Parents

What may parents be asked to pay for?

Schools can request payment for:

**Essential Student Learning Items**

These are items, activities or services that the school deems essential to student learning of the standard curriculum.

Where practical and appropriate, parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own.

These may also be either:

- Items the student takes temporary or permanent possession of (e.g., textbooks, activity books, exercise books, stationery, book bags, student ID cards, locks, cooking ingredients students will consume, materials for final projects that students take home (technology projects, build-your-own kits, dioramas), Picture Exchange Communication Systems)
- Activities associated with instruction that all students are expected to attend (i.e., travel, entry fees or accommodation, excursions, incursions, school sports, work placements)

Parents can be asked to pay for items, activities and services in the three categories based on the learning and teaching program of their school.

Schools determine how items, activities and services are classified within these categories.

Items the student purchases or hires (e.g., school magazines, class photos, functions, formals, graduation dinners, materials for extra-curricular programs, student accident insurance)

Activities the student purchases (e.g., fees for extra-curricular programs or activities, such as instrumental music tuition, fees for guest speakers, camps, excursions, incursions, sports, entry fees for school run performances)

Items and/or materials that are more expensive than required to meet the standard curriculum (e.g., use of silver in metal work instead of copper, supplementary exam revision guides)

Schools can invite voluntary financial contributions for:

- Building or Library fund (Tax deductible)
- Voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, such as equipment, materials, services
- General voluntary contributions

Support for families experiencing hardship is available at every school and each school has a parent payment contact person. See your school’s policy for more information.

For more information on Parent Payments and Personal Devices, visit the DET website at: www.education.vic.gov.au
Parent Payments 2017

Family Name ______________________________________

1. Child’s name: ________________________________ Year level 2017 __________
2. Child’s name: ________________________________ Year level 2017 __________
3. Child’s name: ________________________________ Year level 2017 __________
4. Child’s name: ________________________________ Year level 2017 __________

PAYMENT FOR EACH STUDENT
Total due and payable by Friday January 27th 2017 or the first school day for students.

A - ESSENTIAL EDUCATION ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Education Items</th>
<th>Per child</th>
<th>x Number of children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$240.00</td>
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</table>

☐ Cash ☐ EFTPOS (CHQ, SAV, CR) ☐ BPay (please see business manager, Roberta, for your Biller Code and Reference Number) Total: $

B - VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

These contributions are allocated to short term priority areas such as grounds maintenance and medium term priorities such as furnishing classrooms.

☐ $35 ☐ $90 ☐ $125 ☐ $250 ☐ $375 ☐ Other $__________ Total: $

TAX DEDUCTIBLE Contribution to Special Purpose Funds
Parents are invited to contribute any amount to one or both of these funds

PVSPS Building Fund

☐ $20 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $__________ $

PVSPS Library Fund

☐ $20 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $__________ $