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Dear Families/ Whanau of Ponsonby Primary,

What does your donation mean to our school and how do we use donations?

Your generous **tax deductible** donation is the only way our school can cover the gap between what we get and what we need to continue to offer for the excellence you value for your children's learning.

As you are aware there are many inequities in government funding. The reality is the school's 'Operating Grant'¹ of \$400,000 GST exclusive is insufficient to run our school and without parent support we cannot meet our outgoings for essential services.

Schools in high socio-economic areas like ours across Auckland have been forced into running deficit budgets, and that is unsustainable for education. Three major government reviews in 2003, 2009, 2016 found the decile system inequitable, then in 2019 decile 1 to 7 schools were given another funding boost with a \$150.00 per student donation being funded. In a like-size school that adds another \$63,000 to their budget. Targeted funding² adds a further \$350,074 to a decile 1 school of like-size to us.

The gap widens yet again.

This year we want to provide your child/ren with maximum educational opportunities. The annual donations made by you pay for our teacher aides, whose salaries were lifted in 2021. We employ 3 learning assistants (teacher aides) and we are funded for less than 1 learning assistant in our Operational Grant. The donations pay for part time teachers, ancillary staff and the learning resources that we know are vitally important. We are also committed to providing smaller class sizes and over the past three years we have funded a teacher through our operational grant.

The reality is we now get **\$400,000 minimum operational funding, less than a school of the same size which is based in a lower socio economic area**. Our suggested parent donation raises \$193,000 and in 2023 this amount includes \$100 per child for all the extracurricular activity costs that parents used to pay during a term e.g. Life Education, Music workshops etc. The suggested donation does not include activities that are optional and sit outside the curriculum, e.g. Motutapu Camp (Yr. 6), Marae (Yr. 5), Year 3 sleepover and Millennium Institute visits (Yr. 3), Arataki Visits and Mangere mountain experiences (Yr 4), Parnell Baths (Yrs 1 & 2) etc.

When possible we run at least two major fundraisers with our PPSG each year to improve our school and this year we will be looking at upgrading the bottom court area. This will be an all purpose surface and eventually we would like to put a shade system over this space which will give us the opportunity of running outdoor events as well as being an outdoor learning space for our Tamariki in order to continue to provide a positive and engaging school environment for your child/ren. **Our fundraising activities ideally sit outside what should be funded by parent donations but more and more of these funds are needed for core running costs.** Over the last three years, due to Covid and restrictions, we were not able to run all our fundraisers and this had a huge impact on our school financially. The redesign of the Kakariki playground is a reflection of what fundraising and donations can provide our school. We give in advance, a heartfelt thanks to you, for supporting your school.

Kindest regards,

Mr Sanjay Rama Principal and the Board of Trustees.

¹ The school's 'Operation Grant' includes all funding, except the teacher salaries of 20 teachers, including the Principal for this school. Our Grant this year is \$440,000.

² Targeted Funding for Educational Achievement (TFEA) is decile linked. Our school gets \$0. Decile 1 schools receive \$833.51 per child.

Ponsonby Primary 2023

All donations are tax deductible. Receipts get sent home with the children. We have increased the costs in 2023 slightly, we have however added all and every curriculum activity cost in the suggested amount as per new government requirements that parents can only give donations. These do however exclude the optional outside curriculum costs of APPA choir, all outside of school sporting costs e.g. skiing and basketball, flippa ball and netball. EOTC/ school camps are also optional costs as is any uniform purchase.

Suggested Donation amounts:

Number of children in the family	Full year donation suggested amount. (Note per child discount for more than 1 child)	Term by term donation option	Weekly direct donation payment to school account 12-3019-0472255-00 <i>Calculated over the whole school year 45 weeks including holidays but please finish payment 20th December. Use the child's full name & word donation as reference please.</i>
1 child	\$580 new cost	\$145.00 per term	\$14.50 per week
2 children	\$1050	\$262.50 per term	\$26.25 per week
3 children	\$1415.00	\$353.75 per term	\$35.37 per week
4 children	\$1640	\$410.00 per term	\$41.00 per week

We really need your support to supplement the lack of government funding so that we can continue to provide our children with the opportunities and experiences they deserve. **Special Note - If your child is in a special or enrichment programme, or receives extra help, or you just want to give a little more because you can e.g. reading recovery, special learning support, we would be extremely grateful for any additional support you can give us.**

How do you pay donations?

We encourage you to pay your school donation through the school website payment option however you can pay your donation in any of the following ways:

1. **School Website**

Click on the blue school payments button on the front page to be taken to the payment page and follow instructions.

2. **Payment through internet banking**

You can pay through internet banking and you can also set up automatic payments on a weekly or termly basis. Our ASB bank account number is 12-3019-0472255-00

Ensure you put your child's name and reason for payment in the payee details. e.g. Mary Smith Donation \$580. If you prefer to pay your donation at intervals, it would really help us if you could arrange pre-set automatic payments so we don't have to send out reminders for each donation payment

3. **Payment at the School Office**

You can pay at the school office with a debit / credit card or cash.

Please call the office on 376 3568 if you have any issues with any of these payment options or any concerns about making a donation. Wendy Steedman manages the donations so for any queries please send an email to Wendy Steedman wsteedman@ponprim.school.nz

You can pay online, or send the return slip with payment or just come into the office and see Wendy.

(Tax deductible) RECEIPTS WILL GO HOME WITH THE CHILDREN OR WE CAN POST THEM if you request that.

Select method of receipting: by hand by post

Family name:

Child's name Room No.....