**School Donations Scheme**

February 2024

In summary, Bruce McLaren Intermediate School will no longer request school donations or seek contributions for curriculum-based activities. Please read on for details.

**Background on the School Donations Scheme**

Introduced in 2020, decile 1-7 state and state-integrated schools and kura could choose to receive $150 per student from the government each year. Boards of schools which opted into the *School Donation Scheme* were (and still are) unable to ask parents or guardians for donations (except for school camps and extra-curricular activities).

**What does this mean for Bruce McLaren Intermediate School and our Whānau?**

At the November 2022 Board meeting, it was agreed that Bruce McLaren Intermediate School **would** opt into the *School Donation Scheme*for 2023 and again for 2024.

This means that the Ministry or Education will provide a funding allocation of $154 per student in 2024. By opting into the *School Donation Scheme,*we will no longer seek voluntary school donations (currently $100 per year for a single student and $180 per year for a family with more than one student at school), the activity contribution (currently $100 per year), or contributions towards other curriculum based activities.

**One important exception to this is overnight school camps.** Under the *School Donation Scheme,*schools are still able to seek contributions for an overnight school camp.

Schools can charge parents/whānau for optional activities, like sports trips, Jump Jam, Leaver's Dinner etc that are outside the core learning programme, where participation is optional, and parents have agreed for their child to participate.

In addition, parents are still expected to purchase stationery for their child/ren, although they need not purchase directly from the school or the school's preferred supplier.

**The decision was made to opt into the *School Donation Scheme*primarily to ease the burden of these costs on our parent community. The Board felt this was particularly important given the current *cost of living crisis* and rising interest rates.**

The $154 per student which we will receive this year does not fully cover the donations and contributions which have historically been received from parents, so we will be budgeting very carefully for additional curricular experiences that attract extra costs including transport.

**How can I Help?**

Schools which have opted into the *School Donation Scheme*are still able to fundraise through existing channels and organisations.

Going forward, we will continue to rely on contributions to support activities. I urge you to continue to support future school events. Please help the school, which in turn, continues to provide rich learning experiences for our tamariki.

Please reach out if you'd like further information on the *School Donations Scheme.*

Ngā mihi

Liz Wood

Principal-Tumuaki