

# Information - The Ngaio School Family Donation

March 2023

This year, the Ngaio School Board has made the difficult decision to raise the amount that we request from each family. This is the first increase to the requested school donation since 2018. This is not a decision that we have taken lightly, and we have put considerable thought into the size and timing of the increase. The Ngaio School donation continues to be lower than many local schools, especially for families with 2 or more children.

The family donation is a vital source of income for Ngaio School that supports the running of the school, and we are incredibly grateful to the families who pay their donations each year. The funding that Ngaio School receives from the government is far less than the cost of running the school, which means that locally raised funds, such as the family donation, allow us to maintain the high standards of curriculum delivery and care we aspire to.

All schools receive some government funding (Operations Grant), to run a school. Some of the school's costs, such as teacher salaries are funded directly through other specific government grants and further costs are funded on application, for example some teacher aide costs and staff professional development. Additional funding is provided for property projects, granted every 5 years through a comprehensive planning process with the Ministry of Education, however this does not account for repairs and maintenance, which need to be managed through the school's Operations Grant.

The new funding model for schools that came into effect this year, based on an equity index, means that schools in communities like Ngaio receive less funding than under the previous decile system, and therefore rely even more heavily on locally raised funds including the family donation. Most of the government funding we do receive is allocated based on the number of students enrolled, which has been falling slowly over the past few years.

The family donation is critical to ensuring we can continue to run the type of school that the community expects and that we are all proud of. Historically, 70-80% of families support and pay the donation each year.

If you have any questions about the family donation, how the Board came to the recent decision to increase the amount that we request, or anything else then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## What does the family donation pay for?

The family donation contributes to the general cost of running a school as the Operations Grant falls well short of what is required.

The extent to which we can budget toward curriculum resources, teacher aides, professional development, librarians, cleaning and caretaking for example, is dependent on the support from the family donation.

## What about the activity donation?

Unlike the family donation, the activity donation is used directly to pay for activities that your child will take part in. This includes activities like trips and special visitors.

## 2023 Donation Request

The family donation requested by Ngaio School for 2023 is \$300 for one child and \$490 for two or more children. Account details are provided below. We greatly appreciate your support.

**The school bank account is: 12-3140-0210759-00.  
Please use Code 0205 and include your child's name.**

On Behalf of the Ngaio School Board (Craig, Joe, Emma, Rachael, Dan, Daniel, Raewyn)

Craig Fairhall [botcraig@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:botcraig@ngaio.school.nz)  
Presiding Member