



The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

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Our Ref: Board 2020

17th April 2020

Dear Beehive Parents and Carers,

The School Board met for an extraordinary meeting on 14 April to further consider the impact of COVID-19 on our school community and to discuss ways in which we can assist. These are unprecedented times, and we will continue to meet as often as necessary as things change and evolve.

A particular focus of our Board meeting this week was how we can best support families within our community who have found themselves in very difficult economic circumstances due to COVID-19. We appreciate that for some families there may have been loss of employment or even businesses, and for everyone there is stress in these times. We want to support any families in need, while continuing to pay staff as usual and to ensure the sustainability of our school for the future beyond COVID-19.

The Board considered the current budget, projected changes, potential government funds or tax relief, and took advice from the Finance Committee on a wide range of considerations. As it stands, the School's operating costs for Term 2 are not significantly reduced, as the government requires that schools remain open and with staff on site. The School will however apply for any grants or incentives from Government as they become available, and the Board decided that these funds will be used to increase the Bursary budget during 2020. The current Bursary process provides families with an avenue to request fee reductions on an as-needs basis for up to 1 year at a time and the details and application forms are available on the Bursary page of the school website [here](#).

Board members are aware that some families may need immediate and short term assistance rather than an ongoing bursary. Faced with the choice of offering a small discount to the whole school for Term 2, or providing useful fee relief for families who are in acute need, we decided that it was more in the spirit of Beehive to do the latter. To that end we have also developed a 'fast track' process for any families needing to request short-term fee relief for Term 2, directly related to loss of income or employment due to COVID-19. The process for this COVID-19 Bursary is designed to be simple, and relies on our shared trust, as there is not a perfect system. Our goal is to be equitable and to focus the School's resources where they are needed most. The form for this process is available on the Bursary page of the school website [here](#).

We wish you and your families well over the school holidays, and we will keep you updated.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bettina Mangan".

Bettina Mangan
Chair of Beehive Montessori School

