

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Dear Families,

Strathmore Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the school's voluntary financial contributions for 2022.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, parent contributions continue to provide an important and critical source of funding which enables us to supply resources necessary to maximise successful delivery of our learning programs. The ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support through paying the contributions over the years as this has made a huge difference to our school on a day to day basis with quality materials as well as enhancing the level of programs we can offer, in specialist subject areas and Inquiry and STEM learning with special items.

Within our school, financial contributions from families have allowed us to purchase quality consumable materials for teaching and learning in the classroom, including stationery and art supplies. Additionally, the financial contributions from families in recent years has also enabled the school to purchase special items for Music, such as additional instruments, new furniture for the Art room, and high-tech robotics kits including Lego Mindstorms, Sphero Bolts and Intelino Smart Trains for use across the school in STEM and Inquiry.

The following pages outline the estimated spend per student for 2022. Families will notice that the Department of Education and Training has updated the titling of categories for parent payments when comparing 2021 to 2022. In 2021, the school requested \$300 from families (a \$50 reduction compared to the previous two years due to the school having remaining accumulated stock as a result of the unanticipated impact of remote learning), for the combined categories of **"Essential Student Learning Items"** and **"Voluntary Contributions"**.

For 2022, the school is requesting \$350 from families in the one category of **"Curriculum Contributions"**. The items that the school intends on spending these voluntary financial contributions on remain the same as in 2021, combined under this updated category. This amount is the same as what was requested in 2019 and 2020. Contributions of this amount from families will support the continued provision of resources and programs across the school.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached. Information in relation to financial support for families experiencing hardship can be found

Yours sincerely,



*Peter Olm*

*Principal – Strathmore Primary School*

*Travis Jones*

*School Council President*

## Curriculum Contributions

In 2021, the school requested \$300 from families, for the combined categories of “**Essential Student Learning Items**” and “**Voluntary Contributions**”.

For 2022, the school is requesting \$350 from families in the one category of “**Curriculum Contributions**”. The items that the school intends on spending these voluntary financial contributions on remain the same as in 2021, combined under this updated category. This amount is the same as what was requested in 2019 and 2020. Contributions of this amount from families will support the continued provision of resources and programs across the school.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Items for the Classroom Program, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual classroom stationery items, such as exercise books, pencils, glue sticks</li> <li>Literacy and Numeracy materials, equipment and classroom texts</li> <li>Inquiry learning materials and equipment</li> <li>Online subscriptions, such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Compass, ActiveLearn, ACER Progressive Achievement Test assessments, Essential Assessment subscription</li> </ul>	\$200
Items for Specialist Subjects, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual Arts materials and equipment</li> <li>Equipment, maintenance and consumables for Sports and Physical Education</li> <li>Stationery and consumables for Italian and on-line subscription to Linguascope</li> <li>Music instruments, equipment and consumables</li> </ul>	\$50
STEM – Special items such as robotics kits and school and classroom-based IT equipment.	\$100
<b>Total Amount (Curriculum Contributions)</b>	<b>\$350</b>

## Other Contributions

Families are invited to make voluntary contributions, to an amount of their own choosing, to the tax-deductible **Building** and **Library Funds** for 2022.

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<b>Tax deductible contributions</b>	
<b>Building fund.</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$
<b>Library fund.</b> A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.	\$
<b>Total Amount (Other Contributions – Families are invited to set their own amounts to donate to these funds).</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Strathmore Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis. For Strathmore Primary School, all camps, direct experiences at school (e.g. guest speakers, presentations, performances) excursions, overnight events, sporting events and graduation ceremonies and celebration days are in this category and are regarded as a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
All camps, direct experiences at school (e.g. guest speakers, presentations, performances) excursions, overnight events, sporting events and graduation ceremonies and celebration days are regarded as user-pays and will be individually invoiced to families closer to the time of each event.	\$TBA
<b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities (Advised throughout the year on Compass)</b>	<b>\$TBA</b>

## Financial Support for Families

Strathmore Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and State Schools Relief (SSR) for uniform items
- Payment plans and instalments
- CentrePay – families in receipt of payments through Centrelink may access a free and voluntary service to pay bills and expenses through regular deductions from Centrelink payments (***please find document attached with further detail***)

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: **Robyn Emerson (Business Manager)**.

## Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$350
Other Contributions (Families are invited to set their own amounts to donate to these funds)	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (To be advised closer to the time of events).	\$TBA

## Payment methods

Please arrange for payment (or contact Robyn Emerson in relation to a payment plan) by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February using Compass (payment will be made through the “Course Confirmation” section) or EFT on-site at school.

## Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department of Education and Training’s Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

## PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



### FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.

Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



### PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

#### Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

#### Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

#### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



### FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.

Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



### SCHOOL PROCESSES

Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.