

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Dear parent/carer/s of students in Grades Foundation, 1 & 2 (2024 school year),

Seaholme Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, 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, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to have a wider offering of subjects, special curriculum experiences and enhanced digital learning opportunities. It has also enabled us to make significant improvements to our school grounds.

Some of the larger projects that have been possible this year as a result of your contributions are:

- Our amazing Wellbeing Café
- New air conditioning/heating in the school hall
- Improved accessible parking facilities
- New sand in sand pits and softfall in our playgrounds
- New lighting along the path leading into the school from the Civic Parade entrance. This has significantly improved safety for our staff, students and contractors
- Three new flag poles installed to display the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags
- New school signage including our acknowledgment of country sign
- Landscaping improvements and our beautiful new Indigenous art outdoor chair
- Implementation of a permanent solution to the flooding at the Millers Road entrance
- New fence and automated pedestrian gate at the Civic Parade entrance
- New and improved line marking in the staff carpark to improve community safety
- New vandal proof external speakers
- Upgrading current and additional security lighting

In addition, we have also been able to implement new classroom reader libraries for all year levels.

Your fundraising efforts have funded new sporting equipment for classrooms and outdoor areas including new soccer goals.

We have many exciting projects planned for 2024 which will include our new Basketball Court and the refurbishment of our student toilets. These initiatives are made possible through your contributions and continued support.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please refer to the one-page overview attached.

Excursion/Incursion Contribution

In 2024, excursions and incursions will be paid for by families as each event occurs. We will no longer be requesting an up-front payment. All excursions/incursions will be administered and communicated individually via Compass.

We look forward to another year of 'success for all' at Seaholme Primary School!

Yours sincerely,

James Barger Principal

Andrea Kehoe School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p>Shared Classroom Stationery</p> <p>Shared stationery and classroom materials required for the year. This includes items such as pencils, pens, glue sticks, scissors, exercise books, folders, document wallets and paper. The provision of shared stationery instead of individual packs ensures less wastage and supports our focus on sustainability.</p>	\$50.00
<p>Curriculum Learning Materials</p> <p>The provision of printing and photocopying curriculum learning materials. Where possible digital versions/resources are sourced to support our ongoing focus on waste reduction and sustainability.</p>	\$55.00
<p>Specialist Learning Area Materials</p> <p>Seaholme Primary School has an extensive specialist program to enhance learning opportunities for all students. This includes Visual and Performing Arts, STEM, Kitchen Program, Physical Education and Languages. Please note that Specialist areas for 2024 are in the process of being finalised.</p> <p>This contribution allows for the purchasing of materials and equipment for students to use and ensures an enhanced specialist program. Examples of materials and equipment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual Arts materials, folios, workbooks, coloured paper, textiles, modelling and creative art materials including clay and glazes. Updating and purchasing new Performing Arts equipment (musical instruments, costumes, props, digital technology for recording purposes) for student use during Performing Arts lessons, lunchtime club and the school band. - Updating and purchasing new sports equipment for student use during Physical Education lessons, Interschool Sports as well as for use during recess and lunch breaks. - Workbooks, STEM and Kitchen supplies for students to use. 	\$75.00
<p>Digital and Online Subscriptions</p> <p>Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Scribbi.</p>	\$50.00
<p>ICT Devices</p> <p>The provision of devices from shared classroom sets.</p>	\$50.00
Total Amount	\$280.00

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<p>School Grounds, Maintenance, and Improvements</p> <p>Ensures a proactive approach to the maintenance of our school grounds and buildings.</p>	\$40.00
<p>Communication Tools</p> <p>Ensures our key communication tools such as Compass, Newsletter and Website are maximised to the benefit of students and families.</p>	\$10.00
<p>First Aid Supplies and Health and Hygiene items</p> <p>Includes first aid supplies, tissues and sunscreen.</p>	\$10.00
<p>Student Wellbeing</p> <p>The wellbeing of all our students continues to be a key focus. This contribution will be used to enhance our wellbeing resources, sensory kits, items for lunch time clubs and our good morning club.</p>	\$20.00
<p>Community Support Contribution</p> <p>A contribution to support students/families in need. This would be utilised to assist students to attend camps and excursions when families are experiencing financial hardship. It would also be used to provide lunch, uniform and other items for students/families in need. All contributions no matter how big or small would be appreciated. This is a non tax deductible contribution.</p>	
Tax deductible contributions	
<p>Building Fund Donation</p> <p>The Seaholme Primary School Council has set up a Building Fund that has a Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office. This means that the school can accept donations from parents and organisations, specifically for the School Building Fund, which will be tax deductible for the donor. Contribution suggested amounts \$50.00, \$100.00, \$150.00.</p> <p><i>In 2024, funds donated to our building fund will be used to refurbish the student toilets.</i></p>	
<p>Total Amount</p>	<p>\$ 80.00 plus Building Fund Donation/ Community Support Contribution</p>

Educational items for students to own

Below is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase for your child to individually own and use.

- Art smock: Seaholme Primary School art smocks may be purchased from our uniform provider or alternatively you may provide your own waterproof art smock.
- Reader Bag – Foundation students require a reader bag that can be purchased from the school office for \$10.00. Students will utilise the reader bag for the entire time they attend Seaholme Primary School.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Seaholme 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.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Additional Extra-Curricular Items & Activities These items and activities are designed to enhance and broaden the educational experience of students, such as instrumental music, extension classes, camps, etc. The cost of these items will be communicated to parents/carers prior to the activity, should the school be able to offer these programs to students.	\$TBC
Excursion and Incursions Incursions and excursions are provided to students to enhance and broaden their experience.	\$TBC
Swimming Program Annual swimming program, for all students, further details to be provided	\$TBC
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$TBC

Total

Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$280.00
Other Contributions	\$ 80.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$TBC

Financial Support for Families

Seaholme Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty. If, for any reason, you experience difficulty making payments please contact James Barger, Principal or Rachael Stevanovski/Susan Day Business Manager's on 9398 2806 to confidentially discuss support options and payment arrangements. Current supports in place include:

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF),
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- An opportunity to purchase second-hand uniform, and
- Support from State Schools Relief.

If you have any questions in relation to the Parent Payments, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Payment methods

The preferred method of payment is via Compass for all contribution payments. This will provide families with instant confirmation of payment and visibility of contributions made.

Credit/Debit cards can also be accepted at the office/over the phone or by completing your payment details on the form attached and returning it to the school office.

Refunds

We will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances. In general, we will not be able to refund payments made for items purchased or costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred to a third party. For example, camp or swimming costs; where a child becomes unwell and cannot attend and the payment has already been made or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will make this clear to parents at the time of payment.

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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.