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8 February 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

St Albans East Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our school's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum 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.

St Albans East Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost and number of items that need to be purchased to a minimum. We also try to ensure that the costs are affordable for all parents. All parent payments can be made at the school office via eftpos. We no longer accept cash payments.

Stationery items will be delivered to the classrooms on the first day of the school term in 2024, ready for the students to use.

I wish to thank you for all your continued support at St Albans East Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Busuttil
Principal

Tammy Chamberlain
School Council President

**EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION**

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the curriculum.		Amount
Year Prep -Grade 6 classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom consumables e.g. Books, pencils, folders, highlighters, scissors etc Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper Performing Art – Drama/Music – replacement equipment Science Technology Engineering Mathematics STEM Sports – equipment 	\$50.00 \$20.00	\$70.00
Year Prep-Grade 6 Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SeeSaw/ SeeSaw Family Reading Eggs / Mathletics 1:1 Classroom iPad Program 	\$20.00	\$20.00
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements/playground upgrades</i> <i>St Albans East PS is committed to upgrading school facilities and reinstating playgrounds at our school. Parents may wish to make a financial contribution/donation to support educational opportunities for our students.</i>		\$
		\$90.00

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

St Albans East 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	Purchase
<i>Optional Excursions</i>	TBA	
<i>Optional Year 5/6 School Camp</i>	TBA	
<i>Optional Year Prep-Grade 6 Swimming – Term 1 April</i>	\$40	
<i>Optional Year 6 Interschool Sports Program</i>	\$50	
<i>Optional Year 6 End of year celebrations</i>	TBA	
Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities		\$

Financial Support for Families

St Albans East Primary appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting payment requests. A range of support options are available to parents who have difficulty making payments including the State Schools Relief Committee support, The Smith Family support and the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund.

1. CSEF - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for the Camps, Sports, and Excursions (CSEF) funding - \$150.00 per child. This money can be used to help cover the costs of camps, excursions, incursions and or swimming. CSEF applications are open from the first day of term one 2024. Parents or legal guardians are required to submit a new CSEF application form each year.

2. The Smith Family – Learning for Life Scholarship

The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program recognises that disadvantaged children need extra support to stay at school and go on to further studies or a job. *Learning for Life* helps create better futures for children in need by providing:

- financial assistance from a sponsor to help disadvantaged families afford the cost of their child's education.
- support from a *Learning for Life* Program Coordinator to connect the child and their family to local learning opportunities and other supports; and
- access to Smith Family educational programs to help children get the most out of their school years.

3. State School Relief

State Schools' Relief is a not-for-profit organisation that improves the lives of tens of thousands of disadvantaged Victorian students, and their families, each year. State Schools Relief provides government school students with new uniforms, footwear, and educational resources, including learning devices. We work side by side with all Victorian primary, to ensure that any students facing hardship have the necessary items they require for school.

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.