

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Poowong Consolidated School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Poowong Consolidated 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, 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's 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 provide book packs and essential materials for classroom use, subscriptions to SeeSaw, Study Ladder, Sentral, Essential Assessments, Get Epic! and many more online curriculum resources, provide electives each term for all students to participate in, run our bike education program P-6 in 2021, offer the Family Life program for Gr 5/6 students at for 3-6 in 2022, subsidise bus travel for interschool sports and representation at district level, offer special days such as Book Week, NAIDOC week, Reconciliation Day, Art projects around the school, subsidise Gr 6 top/jumper screen printing, provide every Gr prep with a red reader bag, provide book boxes for students, regularly update and purchase take home readers, update school iPads and laptops, provide welfare and school chaplaincy resources, provide opportunities for our students to participate in the school musical and art show, update sports materials and music equipment. With your yearly \$200 contributions, we have been able to provide a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences; enhanced digital learning opportunities; faster WIFI and internet and so much more! We can't continue to offer these without your ongoing support. Every contribution from every family helps us to provide the best opportunities possible for our students.

Please note, the Department of Education has requested that all book packs be provided by a third party provider for 2022 and beyond and details are attached to this information regarding costs, payment and pick up options.

The requested Curriculum Contribution asked for, at a school level, has been reduced to reflect that book packs costs are no longer a part of this payment and is now allocated at \$80 per student. Details outlining what this money provides to your child are listed on the following page. For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,



Cate McKenzie, Principal



Andrew Holman, School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials & equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, craft supplies, coloured paper (\$20) • Science – paper, consumable goods for experiments eg. Flour, popcorn, batteries, globes, chemicals etc (\$5) • Mathematics – numeracy block resources (\$5) • English – plastic book boxes (\$5) • Sports – equipment (\$5) 	\$40
<i>Online Subscriptions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soudwaves Online (\$13) • SeeSaw (\$8) • Get Epic! (\$4) • Kids News (free) • Essential Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy (\$10) 	\$35
<i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$15
<i>Student Stationery (Formerly called Book Packs)</i>	\$100
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>Sentral (Parent Communication and Reporting)</i>	\$5
<i>First aid equipment</i>	\$5
Total Amount	\$200

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Poowong Consolidated 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.

Details of costs of these camps, programs and additional opportunities for our children will be provided, once approved by School Council with a term's notice for camps and at least 2 week's notice for excursions and additional programs.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount	Purchase
Grade 3/4 camp to Mill Valley Ranch and 5/6 school camp to Camp Marysville	\$300-350 TBC	
Gr 2 sleepover at school, Gr 1 dinner and Prep teddy bears picnic	No more than \$15	
School Photos (March) by Blue Wolf Photography (cost depends on package chosen)	\$TBA in Term 1	
Student Representative Council Charity Fundraising- end of each term gold coin donation by choice	\$1-2 per term	
Optional District, Regional and State level representation of swimming, athletics, cross country, lightening premiership etc (Gr 3-6 only) for those children who qualify for representation	\$TBA (bus travel cost)	
Swimming Carnival- pool entry costs by YMCA (P-6)	\$TBA in Term 1	
Pancake Day (gold coin donation)	\$1-2	
Gr Prep-2 excursion to the Melbourne Zoo (P-2 only)	\$TBA in Term 2	

Family Maths Night (all families welcome)	\$TBA in Term 2	
Easter Raffle- chocolate egg donation and raffle ticket purchase	\$TBA in Term 1	
Gr 5/6 Leadership Day	\$TBA in Term 1	
School Musical tickets (open to all families and community)	\$TBA in Term 1	
Book Week Book Fair- cost varies depending on what books are purchased (if at all) by families. Book Week costume required	\$TBA in Term 4	
Gr 3-6 Bike Ed Challenge	\$TBA	
Bike Ed Program (P-6)	\$TBA	
Gr 3-6 Family Life Program	\$TBA in Term 2	
Whole School Family Bush Dance (open to all families)	\$TBA in Term 4	
Excursions and Incursions P-6	\$TBA	
Gr 6 Graduation	TBA in Term 3	
Gr 6 Big Day Out	TBA in Term 3	
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities		\$ TBA

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- Payment Plan Agreements

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Cate McKenzie, Principal or

Chloe Corry, Business Manager

Ph: 03 5659 2356 | Email: poowong.cs@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category

Curriculum Contributions	\$ 90
Other Contributions	\$ 10
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$ To Be Advised

Payment methods

Payments can be made to the school prior to the end of the 2021 school year by CHEQUE ONLY.

Cheque Payments: Cheques will be processed at the beginning of the 2022 school year (end of January), so please ensure sufficient funds are available at the end of January.

Direct Deposit Payments: can be made into the school Bendigo Bank account AFTER 1/1/2022- PLEASE WRITE YOUR FAMILY NAME IN THE DESCRIPTION
BSB- 633 000
Acc- 14124 6850

EFTPOS Payments: can be made in person at the school office or can be made over the phone using your chosen card. Receipts for payments made on the phone will be available for collection or can be sent home with your child.

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 is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information. As a first port of call, a credit to your family statement will be made to be used for future school activities.

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.