

Ferntree Gully North Primary School



111 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully 3156

Telephone: (03) 9758 1662
ferntree.gully.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au
www.ferntree.vic.edu.au

Dear parent/guardian,

Ferntree Gully North Primary School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Ferntree Gully North'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 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 strong focus on all key learning areas, particularly literacy and numeracy. We offer a broad range of educational experiences that support the growth of our students academically, socially and emotionally. These enhanced opportunities include an environmental centre, outstanding facilities, strong safety management and compliance measures, well maintained gardens and grounds, performing arts productions, art shows, digital services including new equipment, upgrades of infrastructure, lease payments of laptops and iPads. Our Wellbeing program (Chaplaincy previously Federally funded and now funded by the school) continues to support a large number of students and families which has a far reaching impact on the community as a whole along with parent run initiatives such as Breakfast Club and school assistance funding.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sue Dean
PRINCIPAL

Gareth Whitten
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Grades 3 to 6	Amount
Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	
Initial Stationery and individual items (consumable classroom items replenished throughout the year) Includes exercise books, scrap books, project books, word book, document wallet, home reading journal, markers, pencils, sharpener, glue sticks, scissors.	\$60
Consumable materials and supplies for specialist and classroom programs English, Maths, ICT, Science, Lote – Japanese, Performing Arts (Music), Visual Arts, Library, Physical Education, Enviro and Inquiry. Includes paints, textiles, glitter, cardboard, craft paper, clay, cover paper, project books, coloured paper, award certificates, laminating pouches, masking tape, paints, Gelli plates, PVA glue, clips, planting materials, cooking materials, printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$140
Online Subscriptions Essential Assessment Epic - Complimentary Active Learn/Bug Club	\$30
ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets Approximately 50% of costs are funded, voluntary financial contributions facilitate upgrades and maintenance of devices across the school	Suggested Amount \$40
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Assistance fund – These funds will be used to support other families should they suffer hardship. Contributions may be used to assist families with the payment of school or uniform costs.	\$
First aid equipment – A suggested \$5 donation per student will support the cost of providing first aid care including band aids, bandages, ice packs, first aid kits and emergency equipment	\$
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure. Suggested amount is \$50 per family	\$
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource. Suggested amount is \$50 per family	\$
Total Amount	\$



Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Ferntree Gully North 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 include non-curriculum-based school events, optional excursions and camps, optional sporting or music programs and materials that don't relate to the standard curriculum such as school magazines.

Parents will be notified of when these activities will take place through our communication portal, Compass and provided reasonable time to pay for these.

Financial Support for Families

Ferntree Gully North Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty. The school makes every effort to keep the costs of items that need to be purchased at a minimum and can do so with the ability of bulk buying.

The School Council of Ferntree Gully North Primary School has made a considerable effort to ensure that the 2022 Parent Payment schedule is fair and equitable, allowing for the variety of as many family circumstances as practicable. If you have difficulty making payments, please contact our Business Manager, Skye Thornton, to discuss possible support options and payment arrangements. Any information about your financial circumstances, payment arrangements or status will be kept strictly confidential.

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

Phone: 03 9758 1662 or Email: skye.thornton@education.vic.gov.au

Those families with eligibility for Camps and School Excursion Funding (CSEF funding) can utilise this support for these costs. Information about eligibility for CSEF and for which school things it can be used can be found using your Compass login under the Community menu in School Documentation. Please contact the Office if you require more information.

Please note if you have previously applied for and received CSEF funding for a specific child, you don't need to apply for 2022 funds. Your application and allocation of funds will automatically be processed in 2022, as long as your family is still eligible. It is important to note, however that if you have a new child starting in 2022 you will need to apply for 2022 funding for that child.



Payment methods

CompassPay

Ferntree Gully North Primary School uses the communication platform, Compass for attendance, excursions, incursions, camps and course confirmation and payment. Families may continue to make multiple contributions throughout the year in manageable amounts should you wish to and we can offer a variety of ways you can do this through Compass Pay.

Credit card payments via Compass is our preferred method of payment however Bpay remains a payment option and all family Bpay reference numbers remain the same as 2021. Should you require a copy of your statement showing your Bpay reference, please contact the office.

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.

Student Supplies

If you would like to make a contribution for 2022 this year, student book packs will be available for collection from Thursday 2nd December. **ALL** students will receive their book packs no later than the first day of school Monday 31st January 2022.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and the options available to you, please contact the school to make an appointment. Hard copies of any of the above information can be obtained by contacting the office.

Yours Sincerely,

Sue Dean
PRINCIPAL

Gareth Whitten
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT



CAMPS SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND INFORMATION

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

In 2022 the program will again be promoted to families via school newsletters and websites.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card successfully validating with Centrelink on either the first day of term two or term three.

The amount payable for eligible primary and secondary students is:

- \$125 for Primary school students.
- \$225 for Secondary school students.

CSEF payments are for the application year and cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

The CSEF system only allows one application per student. Parents in shared custody situations are encouraged to make decisions as to who applies for the CSEF. Schools should not be put into the position of arbitrating in decisions such as this.

If the parents cannot decide between themselves who should apply, they should be encouraged to resolve the dispute through the Family Court, or contact the Department's CSEF Helpdesk for more information on

Ph: 1800 060 970.

Schools are required to use the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment for expenses relating to Camps, Sport and/or Excursions for the benefit of the eligible student. Some common examples of school-organised programs for which the CSEF payment may be used include:

- School camps/trips
- Swimming and other school-organised sporting programs
- Outdoor education programs
- Excursions/incursions

The CSEF payment cannot be used towards voluntary school charges, nor towards books, stationery, school uniforms, before/after school care, music lessons, school graduations or productions etc.