

PARENTS' COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

At times you too have probably thought of some of the following questions. The School Council wanted you to base your decision this year about your Voluntary Contribution on accurate data. Read on for a better understanding of how the school's budget is limited, and how it can be helped.

Doesn't the government fund the state school education system?

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provides the school with the salaries of teachers and office staff, cost of utilities (water, gas, electricity, and telephone), an amount for basic classroom and administrative needs and a minimal amount towards building and playground maintenance.

Why does the school need a Voluntary Contribution?

Voluntary Contributions made by families assist significantly with the quality and range of educational materials and programs we can make available to children and teachers to enhance learning and teaching.

Why can't we get more money from sources other than families?

Over the past few years the school has applied for many grants and been successful in gaining \$150,000 Federal Government money for playground equipment, the oval renovation and classroom furniture. We continue to write submissions for a range of projects but of course are not always successful. Our latest applications are for solar panels and water tanks and we await the outcome of these.

How do we improve the asphalt, toilets and paint the school?

The Department gives us \$4,500 for building maintenance each year and \$3,400 for grounds maintenance. We are not given money for painting or air-conditioners or replacing the cracked asphalt, all jobs planned for in the future. Painting of the two storey brick building in the holidays cost \$22,000 and proposed installation of air-conditioners requires \$20,000. These improvements (as was the new front entrance last year) are funded with the help of parent voluntary contributions, which both create interest and free up other monies. These substantial amounts are outside the annual budget and these projects can only be completed if we have generated extra income beyond that budgeted for by School Council.

Summary

This year we had a budget shortfall of \$72,500 to cover the basic needs of running the school. Each year we attempt to cover these costs through the Fete, Term 2, 3 & 4 Fundraisers, and Voluntary Contributions. The more support we get for these the more money we can spend to improve the school's resources.

The easiest way for the school to be in a better financial position to produce better learning and recreational outcomes for your children is to generate more money through Voluntary Contributions.

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