



SYNDAL SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS 2009

Wednesday, 12 November 2008

Dear Parents

School Council and Staff are currently planning for 2009. An important issue under consideration is the finance to run quality programs. In addition to Government funds, Parent Contributions play an important role in giving our students the extra resources needed. School Council in conjunction with Finance Committee has decided on the contributions below. There has been an increase of \$10 in **Program Contributions**, due to increased costs of the materials. The \$180 payment is still less than most other State Schools in our region. The **Excursion Levy** will increase to \$120 due to the cost of hiring buses with seat belts (as per our policy). There is also an increase in the Grounds Maintenance Levy, due to the reduced attendance at working bees there is a need to fund contractors to complete some of the grounds maintenance tasks. It is felt that this can best be achieved by an increase in this levy. School Council believes that the full payment of both expected and voluntary contributions will enable staff at Syndal South Primary School to provide significantly better programs for our children. Parents who are in need of financial assistance are asked to make an appointment with Susanne Lowe to discuss options.

Brian Searle
President, School Council

Danielle McNicol
School Treasurer

Susanne Lowe
Principal

A. PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

The year 2009 Program Contributions recommended by the Finance Committee, as passed by School Council, is **\$180** per child. While School Council is reluctant to increase Program Contributions, this small amount has been necessary to cover the increased costs of materials.

Curriculum Program Budgets for 2009, plus photocopying costs and work materials for children, requires funds in excess of \$100,000. While a significant portion of the school's expenditure will be covered by Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) grants, we still rely on parent contributions to support programs across the curriculum. In fact, the **Program Contribution** payment covers materials which other schools **expect parents to purchase**, including provision of books, student requisites and stationery. For parents who qualify, the school portion of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) goes towards the above. An appropriate reduction of contributions would occur.

Note: As the school is purchasing books/requisites as part of its educational programs, parents will not be charged GST under this arrangement.

B. EXCURSION LEVY

The school will collect a single levy of **\$120** per child for all excursions conducted in 2009. This **up front** levy will help with planning, as well as ease the administrative process of multiple collections throughout the year. Excursions are an integral part of a student's learning as they support units of work across all curriculum areas. Parents will be advised in writing of each excursion prior to the event, so that they may give their approval for their child to participate. **Please note** that we are not offering a "pay as you go" option and expect the levy to be paid up front by all parents. Also, as excursions are budgeted and priced based on all children attending **it will not be possible to give refunds** for a child who is absent on the day of the excursion.

C. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Syndal South Primary School Council has established two funds, approved by the Australian Taxation Office for endorsement as a deductible gift recipient. Contributions over \$2 are fully tax deductible. School Council requests a **minimum donation of \$40** per family for the Building Maintenance Fund and a **minimum donation of \$60** per family for the Library Fund. **\$30 of the Library Fund donation will go towards ICT development.** School Council continues to make available a considerable amount of money to build on our ICT resources. We seek your support for this on-going development of ICT resources at Syndal South.

- *Syndal South Primary School Library Fund* - to meet the recurring costs of a library as a resource centre, and ICT development.
- *Syndal South Primary School Building Maintenance Fund* - to upgrade/maintain the school buildings.

D. PRIORITY DONATIONS

School Council acknowledges that the most effective implementation of Strategic Plan priority areas is dependent on substantial resourcing. Accordingly, you are invited to make a "Priority Donation" towards the consolidation/implementation in one of the following areas:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * <i>Literacy</i> | * <i>Numeracy</i> | * <i>Environmental Education</i> |
| * <i>Gifted Education</i> | * <i>Music</i> | * <i>Physical Education</i> |
| * <i>Science/Technology</i> | * <i>Performing Arts</i> | * <i>Integrated Curriculum</i> |

E. PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Under the Constitution of the Parents' Association, each family is required to be financial.

P.A. has set its membership fee at **\$1.00** per family, to be paid simultaneously with the Parent Contributions. This \$1.00 goes towards providing the tea and coffee in the Parents' Room and P.A. activities.

F. GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE COMMITMENT

At Syndal South the cost of grounds maintenance is kept to a minimum by relying on the willingness of the parents to work two to four hours per year in general grounds maintenance works. This work is done on every second or third Saturday or Sunday morning, via a working bee roster, where every family in the school is expected to contribute a couple of hours. While contractors mow significant parts of the grounds, we still require your support. In the last two years the attendance numbers at working bees have been steadily declining, leaving a long list of jobs that require contractors.

We ask **all parents** to pay an "up front" **refundable donation of \$75** as part of the grounds maintenance roster. **The \$75 will be returned to parents who fulfil their commitment by attending their rostered day.** Families who **choose not to be a part** of the grounds maintenance roster are expected to make a **non-refundable \$100 donation.** This will enable us to employ contractors to complete the vital grounds maintenance tasks that make this school such a great natural environment to be a part of.

Parents are asked to complete the attached "Payment Advice Slip". Payments can be made via credit card. All cash money should be forwarded in a sealed envelope. Cheques should be made payable to "Syndal South Primary School".

NOTE: Payments will not be accepted prior to January 2009

Payment of Parent Contributions 2009 can be made on the following dates/times:

Wednesday, 28th January, 2009, between 12 noon and 5pm
Friday 30th January, 2009, between 8.00am and 1pm

Save time and forward attached "Payment Advice Slip", with payment, PRIOR to above dates. Please note that cheques will not be banked until January, 2009 and Credit Card payments will not be put through until January, 2009. Classroom items such as pencils, exercise books, etc. will be distributed by teachers after school starts. Receipts will be issued on the 28th & 30th January, 2009.

**SYNDAL SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS 2009
Payment Advice Slip**

SURNAME _____

Student Name	Grade	Program Contributions	Excursion Levy	Total
1.		\$180	\$120	\$300
2.		\$180	\$120	\$300
3.		\$180	\$120	\$300
Sub Total				\$

Syndal South Primary School Library Fund* (per family) \$60.00*

Syndal South Primary School Maintenance Fund* (per family) \$40.00*

Priority Donation. Area (s) _____ \$ _____

Grounds Maintenance Commitment (Refundable) \$75.00

Take me off the Grounds Roster (Non-refundable) \$100.00

Parent Association Membership \$1.00

TOTAL \$ _____

#Less Educational Maintenance Allowance# (\$ _____)

TOTAL \$ _____

SIGNATURE : _____ **DATE :** _____

**Tax deductible*

School portion of EMA, for parents who qualify.

PAYMENT DETAILS

CASH BANKCARD MASTERCARD VISA CHEQUE

Card Number

Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name: _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

Cardholder's Signature: _____