

Parental Curriculum Contributions in 2024

November 14, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is our ongoing aim to provide the highest standards of education to all Amsleigh Park PS students. An important component of a quality education is making sure that we provide a high standard of resources and learning materials. We believe that our students deserve this, and we know that it makes a difference in the outcomes that they achieve.

To achieve the highest standards of teaching and learning, our teachers and support staff need quality resources and materials, and we need the support of our school community to achieve this. Whilst we do get some funding from the Department of Education, most of it is used to pay for our utilities – electricity/gas/water, relief teaching, plumbing, electrical work, photocopying, furniture, first aid equipment, cleaning consumables, rubbish removal and professional development. This leaves only a small amount to support learning in the standard curriculum.

To provide the high standard we believe our students deserve, we ask our parents for a moderate financial contribution (previously known as school fees). Let me reassure you that all parental contributions are spent on student learning and curriculum resources & materials. The Department of Education has a strict rule that we must call them voluntary financial contributions, but we simply cannot fund the items we want for our students without your help.

In 2023 the number of contributions did improve but we are still not back at the previous years when around 95% of families contributed. We have maintained the same requested contribution for 2024. This modest amount is less than \$2.00 per week so we believe it's a fair and reasonable contribution. In comparison to many other programs for children it represents good value. E.g., One day of childcare can cost the equivalent to a year's contribution at school. Anyone who is experiencing financial hardship should contact us so we can provide support and assistance.

Here are some of the enhancements made possible through the generous support of every Amsleigh Park PS family. In 2023 we:

- ✓ once again purchased new literacy and numeracy resources for student use. This includes more decodable reading materials, hands-on mathematics kits for classrooms and lots of new Library books. This year we spent \$30,000+ on these resources
- ✓ maintained sets of the Apple iPads to further enhance our performing Arts and STEM programs
- ✓ provided class sets of Apple I-pads, Netbooks and Chromebooks for our students to use in their learning. In 2023 we procured a set of new laptop computers for use in Grade 2.
- ✓ enriched the standard curriculum with a comprehensive specialist program. (Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, German and STEM classes). Each specialist area received their budgeted requests for 2023 so they could continue to provide high standards of materials and equipment
- ✓ purchased additional curriculum materials and consumables for Inquiry learning and Social-emotional learning. For example, every child received a Resilience Project booklet at a total cost of \$6500 for the whole school
- ✓ acquired and/or replaced sports equipment to improve the Health & P.E. program
- ✓ purchased new 'Squircle' chairs and other furniture for classrooms
- ✓ contributed towards the cost of a new covered walkway connecting our buildings
- ✓ replaced shade sails over the 3-6 playground

In 2024 we would be hoping once again to continue to provide high standards of learning resources and materials, but this will only be possible with your support. We ask that you please consider making this contribution in 2024. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Cormick
Principal