Auburn South Primary School

Dear Parent/Guardian

Auburn South Primary School is looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year of learning in 2026 and would like to advise you of the voluntary financial contributions for this year. Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Auburn South Primary School is proud of our enhanced educational program and activities delivered to our students and makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all families.

This is achieved through bulk purchases of classroom requisites, which ensures the added advantage of all children having access to identical materials.

Furthermore, the ongoing support from our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for your assistance, whether that's through supporting our teaching staff, fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer and is very much appreciated.

Curriculum Contribution area costs have increased slightly from the 2025 amounts due to higher costs for consumables items such as stationery, workbooks, curriculum and IT necessities as well as upkeep and maintenance services of the school grounds.

We appreciate that families are currently experiencing higher costs of living so have purposely attempted and focussed on keeping any increases as minimal as possible, while still ensuring that the school remains in a stable financial position and able to cover Consumer Price Index (CPI) cost increases.

Our Grounds Contribution is important to maintain the facilities and grounds that students have access to and use every day. Costs in this area have dramatically increased over the past five years, with many regular maintenance expenses now in the multiple thousands of dollars. The financial contribution that we receive from the government does not cover the associated expenses.

Financial Support for Families

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulty in meeting payment requests. A number of support options are available to families who may have difficulty making payments, including the second-hand uniform, State Schools Relief, or the Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

If you are experiencing difficulty in making the requested payments, please contact our Parent Payment Contact the Principal, Travis Paterson by phone on **9882 2140** or email **auburn.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au** for a confidential discussion about alternate arrangements.

Refunds

Auburn South Primary School aims to provide a fair and equitable refund system. Students who exit Auburn South Primary School during the year will be entitled to a refund on a pro-rata by term basis. Please refer to the *Parent Payments Policy* under the Policies, Plans & Reports section of the school's website. Please note however, in line with the policy, that any extracurricular items where the school incurs a cost, cannot be refunded.

Please find attached the 2026 list of payment items / services requested for your child's program. This format is in line with current Department of Education requirements. For further information on the Department's Parent Payment Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

The Department of Education (DE) has introduced a public 1800 parent phoneline for parents to raise issues regarding their school's parent payment arrangements. Please refer to the Department of Education website for further information. https://www.vic.gov.au/school-costs-and-fees

While we are providing this letter to you before the end of this school year, please note that payments are not required until the start of the 2026 school year.

Payment Methods

Payment Using Xuno

The Xuno Parent Portal enables you to do the following:

- Update your registered email and mobile number (used for SMS alerts)
- Pay school fees, charges and contributions.
- Approve or enter upcoming or past absences for your child

Parents are encouraged to utilise this payment option for the 2026 school year. Xuno is a web-based system that is accessible on any modern web browser or by using the ***Xuno School***

Manager app available for iOS or Android devices. To access our Xuno Parent Portal, go to the Auburn South Primary School website http://www.auburnsthps.vic.edu.au and click the Xuno link on the homepage, or download the app and search for Auburn South Primary School. Alternatively, you can go direct to Xuno via https://www.auburnsouthps.xuno.xom.au.

Yours sincerely,

Travis Paterson
Principal

Phoebe Demiris
School Council President

Please find the list of Curriculum Contributions, Other Contributions and Extra-Curricular Items and Activities for your child.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	**Amount**
Classroom Requisites: • Stationery • Textbooks • Consumable materials used across the curriculum to support Units of Inquiry, Mathematics, Wellbeing and Literacy • Materials and classroom resources for specialist programs: • Visual Arts • Performing Arts • Physical Education • Languages	$530.00
STEM and Curriculum Enhancement: • Literacy and Phonics resources and subscriptions • Mathematics resources and subscriptions • Online Assessments • Learner Management System • PYP (Primary Years Program) International Baccalaureate • Information Technology: • Laptops / leases & replacements • iPads • Lego • Photocopying / printing	$300.00
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	**Amount**
Grounds Maintenance ($50 recommended) To provide regular maintenance of school grounds and meet safety standards. The Government provides some funding to address urgent works and essential items. Any shortfalls are met by these locally raised funds.	$50.00
School Nurse and First Aid ($150 recommended) *While employing a School Nurse is classified as being a voluntary contribution, continuation of this service will not be possible without the financial support of all families.* • Manage first aid	$150.00

• Manage student health action plans • Attend school sports days and special events where there is increased risk of injury • Coordinate staff first aid and anaphylaxis training • Coordinate student first aid programs	
Total Amount	**$1,030.00**
Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. *A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.*	$ ___ **($80 suggested)**
Library fund. *A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.*	$ ___ **($80 suggested)**
State Schools Relief. *A tax-deductible contribution to support needy families with uniforms, books, etc. We ask families to consider a donation of a minimum of $8. Please consider supporting this.*	**$8**
Total Amount	**$**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

For your convenience, we are pleased to introduce a new option for families to prepay for activities that enrich and extend students' learning throughout the year. These experiences support an enhanced curriculum and sit above the core programs funded by the Department of Education and are therefore offered on a user-pays basis. The school has budgeted $150 per student to cover these activities.

Each year level across the school will be budgeting their excursion/incursions to be $150 for the entire year.

However, please note that this amount does not include Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden, camps, swimming, or additional sports programs for Years 3–6.

If you choose not to take up the prepayment option, you will be asked to pay for each excursion or incursion individually as they occur during the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Incursions/Excursions (per student): Prep to Year 6	$150
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	**$150**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPS, SPORT AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) FOR 2026

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount for a primary school student is $400.

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund

Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a contribution. All records of contributions are kept confidential as well as your decision about whether to make a contribution or not.

Extra-curricular items/activities are additional and are offered on a user-pays basis.

ANTICIPATED ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR PARENTS FOR 2026

CAMPS

Students in Years 3 - 6 will be attending camps during 2026. Costs will be confirmed for parents with as much notice as possible. In 2025, the cost of camp ranged from $378 - $465.

Camps, like excursions, are aligned to the school curriculum and therefore provide an important and enriching connection to student learning. Our school camps meet DE's framework risk management and accountability policies before being approved by School Council. School camps will not operate if the minimum number for costs is not achieved. As per our Camps and Excursions Policy, refunds cannot be given if the refund will cause a financial loss to the school.

Year 6 – Forest Edge, Neerim *Monday 25th – Wednesday 27th May*

Year 5 – Camp Manyung, Mt Eliza *Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th May*

Year 4 – Camp Arrabri, Warburton *Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th November*

Year 3 – Phillip Island Adventure Resort *Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th November*

SWIMMING

Students will be participating in a swimming /or water safety program during Term 4, 2026. While the swimming program is subsidised by the Department of Education, this does not cover the full costs of the program so there will still be a fee to families. In 2025, the cost of swimming ranged from $92 - $173.

STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN: YEARS 2-6

Our school's Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program is a fun, hands-on learning program delivering pleasurable food education. With strong curriculum integration and a focus on student wellbeing, collaboration and leadership, students learn to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal, delicious food – forming positive food habits for life.

As a locally funded extra-curricular activity (like swimming, excursions and camps), our school relies on fees from parents to be able to run this important and highly engaging health education program. Payment of the SAKG fee enables our school to employ our kitchen and garden specialist teachers, while ensuring that our flourishing garden is maintained and grows enough food to feed more than 300 students every fortnight! In 2025, the cost of the Kitchen Garden program ranged from $115 - $325.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Students in Years 3–6 participate in swimming, basketball and cross-country events, and Year 5–6 students also take part in interschool sports during Terms 1 and 2. The costs for these activities vary depending on venues and transport requirements. Families will be notified of these costs as they arise.

2026 Parent Payment Summary

Student Name_____Class: _____

Curriculum Contributions		**Amount**
Classroom Requisites		$530.00
Stem & Curriculum Enhancement		$300.00
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities		
Grounds Maintenance		$50.00
School Nurse & First Aid		$150.00
Extra-curricular items and activities		
Incursions/excursions (per student)		$150.00
Total		**$1,180.00**
Donations	**All Tax Deductible**	
Library Trust Fund Donation	$80.00 (suggested)	**$**_____
Building Trust Fund Donation	$80.00 (suggested)	**$**_____
State School Relief Donation	$8.00	**$**_____
Total Donations		**$**_____
Total Fees + Donations		**$**_____

Option A: full amount via XUNO ☐

Option B: payment plan via XUNO ☐

Option C: payment via credit card using the Payment Authority Form ☐

Please note that the parent payments does not include the cost of excursions, the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, camps or swimming programs.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORITY IF NOT PAYING VIA XUNO

Student A Name: _____Class: _____

Student A Total Fees: $_____

Student B Name:_____Class: _____

Student B Total Fees: $_____

Student C Name: _____Class: _____

Student C Total Fees: $_____

Total Voluntary Donations: $_____

Total Amount Payable: $_____

Credit Card Payments

Card Number | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Card Expiry Date ..... /..... **Visa** **Mastercard**

Cardholder's Name .....

Cardholder's Signature ..... Date .....

Cash / Payments

Payment of $_____is attached

Parent Signature: _____Date: _____