Dear Year 3/4 Parents and Carers,

Carlton North Primary School is looking forward to an exciting year of teaching and learning in 2026! To support our efforts, we want to share information about **voluntary financial contributions** that make a meaningful impact on our students' educational experience.

Our Commitment to Quality Education
CNPS is proud to deliver **high quality, engaging curriculum** that fosters growth in every student. Like most Victorian Government schools, our school relies on community support to supplement government funding.

While **curriculum contributions are voluntary**, and schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum, your financial support enables us to provide the **best educational environment and resources** for all students.

How Your Contribution Makes a Difference
Your contributions allow us to offer **specialist subjects** such as **The Arts, Physical Education, Italian and STEM**, as well as enriched learning materials and activities that go beyond the standard Victorian Curriculum.

Curriculum Contributions
A contribution is requested to cover the cost of **items and activities** that students use or participate in to access the curriculum, including:

- Stationery items and class consumables
- Maths materials
- Visual Art materials
- Science and STEM materials
- Online learning portals and support

By purchasing supplies in bulk, we can offer these items at a **significant discount**. However, if you would prefer to purchase stationery items yourself, a list is available at the office.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Beyond the core curriculum, CNPS offers a **range of items and activities** that enrich and enhance students' school experiences, including:

- Camps, excursions and other activities - on a user-pays basis invoiced throughout the year
- School Music Program, a Chess Club, and optional school photos - through external providers

Other Contributions
Families are invited to donate to the school's general fund, or to specific purposes such as:
Additional classroom support
New library books and classroom resources/support
New playground equipment
Support the Swimming in Schools Program
Support for families wanting their child/ren to participate in non-compulsory extracurricular activities
(Please see attached for further details)

Building for the Future
Our **Major Capital Works project** will improve facilities but does not cover all landscaping or playground replacement. Your contributions will allow the School Council to grow and allocate funds to support this.

For those interested in **tax-deductible giving**, Building and Library Fund donations are eligible.

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

Thank you for your continued support in creating a thriving learning environment at CNPS.

Warm regards,

Matthew Ferguson
Principal

Rebecca Supierz
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Year 3 & 4 classroom consumables, materials & equipment • ***Stationery –pencils and coloured pencils, connector pens, markers, scrapbooks, exercise books, glue sticks, scissors, erasers, sharpener, pencil case*** • ***General classroom consumables*** • ***Maths materials*** • ***Visual Art materials*** • ***Science and STEM materials*** • ***Support of student-owned and school devices***	$128.00
Year 3 & 4 Online Subscriptions • ***Pivot Wellbeing Check-in*** • ***Languagenut – Italian*** • ***Times Tables Rock Stars/NumBots***	$18.00
Total Amount:	**$146.00**

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	**Amount**
Building Fund - *A* ***tax-deductible*** *contribution to support upgrades to school infrastructure. We are currently building our funds towards improving the school's amenities.*	$150 - $300 (suggested)
Library Fund *- A* ***tax-deductible*** *contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.*	$150 - $300 (suggested)
Additional education support - Not all students requiring additional support are funded by the Department of Education as many don't meet the extensive criteria, however the school still provides as much support as possible. Your contribution would help us to pay for reading intervention, classroom support, equipment and resources to help these students.	$150 - $300 (suggested)
Playground Equipment - The Building Fund cannot be used for grounds. Your contribution here would provide funds to help the school replace the current ageing playground equipment.	$150 - $300 (suggested)
Swimming in Schools Program – This program is part of the standard curriculum, however is only partially funded via the Victorian Government initiative. Your contribution would assist the school to meet the significant costs involved in providing the program to all students.	$50 - $100 (suggested)
Pay It Forward (Community Engagement) Fund – Some of our families struggle with the cost of non-compulsory extra-curricular activities such the instrumental music program, extension programs, Chess Club, school photos and Year 6 celebration jumper (hoodie). A contribution to the Pay It Forward (Community Engagement) Fund would assist the school to support families.	$50 - $150 (suggested)
General contribution - Your general contribution will help us to meet the costs of purchasing equipment for our students and learning spaces.	$150 - $300 (suggested)
Total Amount:	**$**

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Carlton North Primary School offers an optional 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 standard Curriculum:

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Camps, Excursions and Activities to enhance the curriculum – ***invoiced by the school throughout the year***
School Music Program - provided by an external provider and ***invoiced separately***
Chess Club – offered at lunchtimes once a week by an external provider and ***invoiced separately***
School Photos - taken early in the year and ***ordered through the provider***

Financial Support for Families

Carlton North Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) for eligible families (who hold a current health care card)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- payment plans for camps, excursions & activities
- the Pay It Forward (Community Engagement) Fund

For further information about accessing financial supports, parents and carers can liaise with the CNPS Business Manager – Trish Harrington – trish.harrington@education.vic.gov.au or by phone on 9347 4822.

Payment methods

We use CompassPay as our preferred payment method. When you log in to Compass, under Course Confirmations you will see the Curriculum Contributions and Other Contributions request. We also accept EFTPOS and cash.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds for camps, excursions and activities 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 to the school has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance and Financial Help for Families Policy.

Please see over page for the Department of Education Parent Payments Policy overview

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.

PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.

SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.