Dear Parents / Carers,

When I started on School Council I was shocked at the minimal amounts of funding our school has to spend on things like new books for our library. Last week you would have received a letter outlining the school payment structure for 2021. DET guidelines require each Victorian Government school to teach the standard curriculum to all students for free. Schools receive funding from the Government to:

* employ staff to teach and manage the school
* maintain buildings and facilities and paying electricity and gas bills
* extra support needed for children with a disability

The relatively small amount left after these costs is used for all other aspects of providing an education. I have observed over the last few years how our school’s leadership do a great job at making a little go a long way.

A school is also limited by Government with regards to charging fees. This year Government has limited the fees even further, which we acknowledge is important to ensure education remains accessible to all students across our state. I certainly appreciate our Government’s commitment to free basic education.

However, as you can imagine there are many more resources required to running a school and providing excellence in learning opportunities for students. Funding from DET does not cover the cost of everything we want to provide to all our students.

Our school now relies on the generous and voluntary support of parents and community members to make up shortfalls in funding.

Making things more difficult was our inability to fundraise this year due to COVID restrictions (no sausage sizzles or trivia nights etc). This limitation is likely to continue in some form into 2021.

School Council in 2021 would be very grateful of your over and above financial support for all students learning in 2021.

Regards Dave Wells

School Council President