




School Council Newsletter

March 202



This is our first Council newsletter for 2024 and its already the start of Term 2! Time flies when you're having fun!

This newsletter focus's on your new council for 2024 and has some very important information relating to school curriculum payments that we hope you will find helpful and informative.

See you under the tree soon!
Ange



the greeting tree



Our school council members 2024

President: Ange Ellis

Vice President: Kate Hutchings

Treasurer: Linda Lee

Secretary: Amanda St Leger

Fundraising: Mikhaela Bourke

Policies: Kathryn James

Staff Members

Karen Robinson

Alesha Sangster

Michelle Rayner

Jim Burnside

Community Member

Jo Rouse

At the end of Last year we farewelled and acknowledged the work done by Nadine Goodall, Emma Taylor & Marie Schoenmaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity to also farewell and thank Pete D'Abico and Tex Moon, both of whom came onto council in the middle of 2022 and have been invaluable members. They have worked and contributed to so much behind the scenes and I'd like to once again thank them for all their work within our school community.

Who to contact

If you have anything you would like to discuss or have raised by someone on council, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ange or any of our members via the council email address:

ange.ellis@education.vic.gov.au . In the meantime, please check the link below to see if your concern or issue is something school council can help with. A gentle reminder that our parents volunteer their time, and may not always be available.

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-powers-and-functions/policy>



Invitation to make Voluntary Curriculum Contributions

We would like to invite families to make the Voluntary Curriculum Contributions for 2024.

We often hear there is confusion around the Voluntary Curriculum Contributions so we thought we'd share some FAQs to support our families when considering the Voluntary Curriculum Contributions this year.

You can also find more information at the Victorian Government website.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/school-costs-and-fees>

Your consideration of this invitation to make a contribution this year is greatly appreciated.

What does the Curriculum Contributions cover at The Patch Primary?

It's a lot of the basics that we might not think about such as art supplies, STEM needs, sports equipment, readers, Subscriptions to Reading Eggs and Mathletics maintaining our grounds and the list goes on.

Stationery is just one good example of how all students benefit. Stationery can be expensive and quickly adds up when there are extensive stationary lists provided by schools. It can also create an uneven playing field when some kids have the popular brands and others don't. The Patch Primary made a conscious decision to supply our students with the same stationary so no one feels they are missing out and parents don't need to make the end of Summer dash to Officeworks, Kmart or Smiggle to pick up the necessities.

There are many other items and activities that families may not realise are covered by these contributions, that support the functions and objectives of the school, including the enhancement of student learning, equity, inclusion and wellbeing.

What are Voluntary Curriculum Contributions?

In Victoria every child that attends a State run primary school such as The Patch Primary, is entitled to free teaching of the set curriculum.

State schools can set a Voluntary Curriculum Contributions amount to help fill the gap between the teaching that is provided by the Government and, what we feel is needed to support the learning. This includes items and activities that are deemed necessary to enhance the schooling experience of our students. Without these vital contributions the school would need to rely on donations and fundraising.

Do I have to pay the Voluntary Curriculum contributions?

The payments are not compulsory.

What does the Victorian Government and Department of Education cover?

The Victorian government and Department of Education ensure that our wonderful teachers and administration staff are paid and repairs and maintenance of our building's facilities are taken care of.

Do I have to pay all of the suggested amounts?

The school has set an amount that ensures costs to parents are kept to a minimum, affordable for families and proportionate to the needs of our school. The main component is the \$330 per child. There are also additional voluntary payments for Grounds Beautification, ICT Assistance Fund,

School Assistance Fund and Physical Education. Families can pay as little or as much as they can or choose to. You can also pay in instalments which can be a great way to budget over the year.

What if our family can't afford the Voluntary Curriculum Contributions at all?

All children who attend The Patch Primary will have the same experience and will not be disadvantaged on the basis of a payment being made. Each family's circumstances are different and can change year to year. Some years it may be possible and others it won't be, please consider what is right for your family. Payment status is not disclosed.

The Patch Primary has arrangements in place support families experiencing financial hardship.

karen.koelewyn@education.vic.gov.au

Who can I speak to regarding these payments?

If you require more information please feel free to contact our business manager Karen in the office Monday – Thursdays and Jim is always happy to chat about options or concerns.

karen.koelewyn@education.vic.gov.au

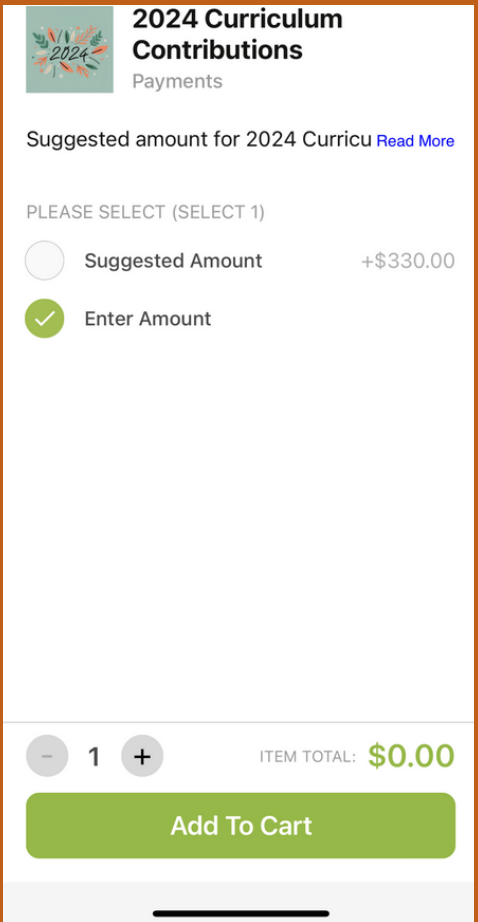
How do I make a contribution?

Payments are made on Qkr! via the Payments section. You will find a full list of the payment options and more details on how each payment is used by the school. Please see the pictures below to see where to make a payment and can be made weekly, monthly, or even by term instalments via Qkr!

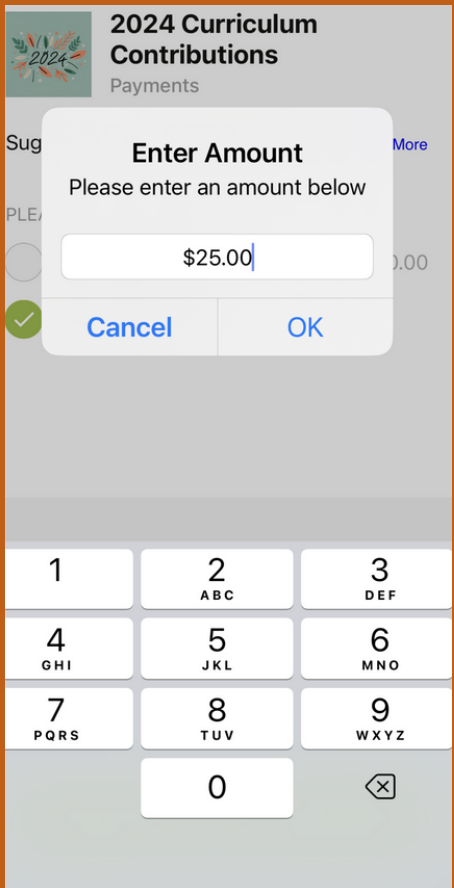
Qkr! payments are controlled by the user and will store all payment activity for future reference.

EXAMPLE OF A MONTHLY PAYMENT

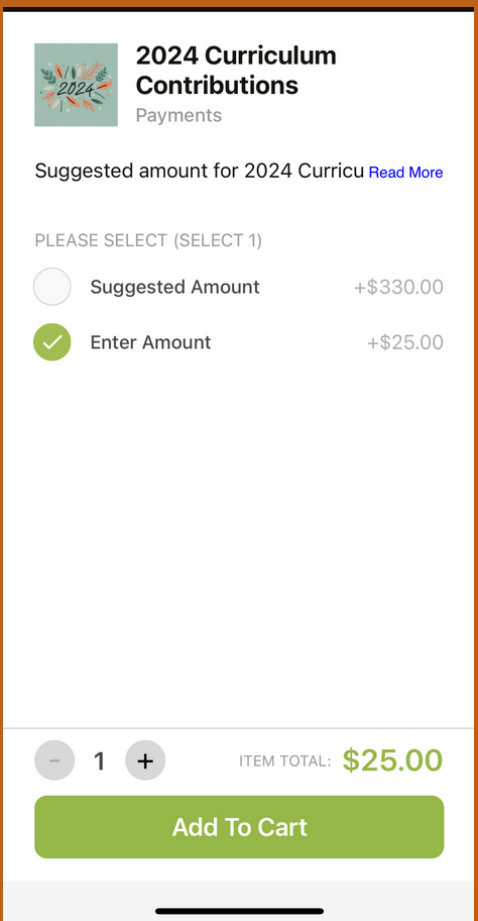
Step 1. Choose a student profile in the school payments section on QKR! and then tap on Curriculum Contributions



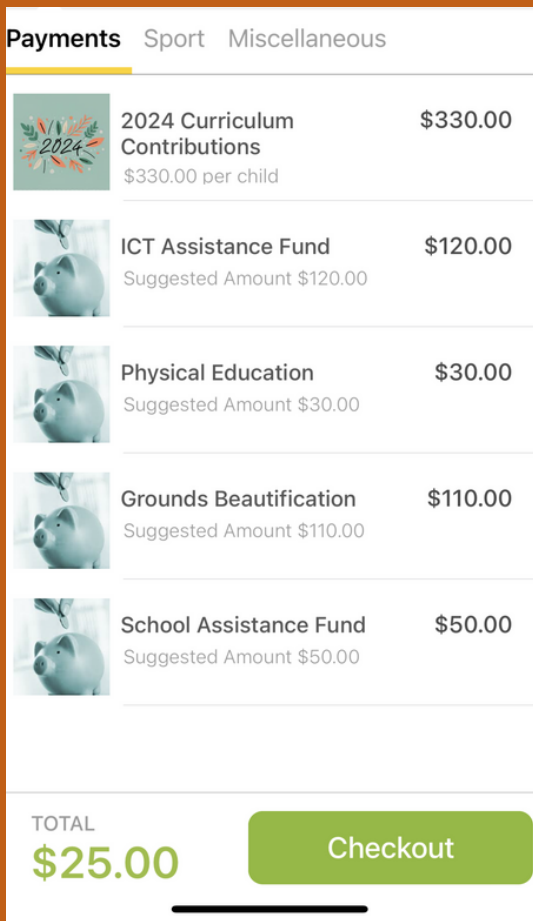
Step 2. Enter any amount you wish.



Step 3. Add to cart



Step 4. Then hit checkout!





Social Media @The Patch



We understand that not everyone has a social media account or even wants one! And those that do, know just how good a social media detox can be for the soul every now and then. However, it does prove to be a fast way to get information out to our community when needed, or if you need to find something fast.

Obviously the first point of information is Compass. **Please make sure your email is up to date with Kim in the office.**

The school has a Facebook page run by the staff

[The Patch Primary School | Facebook](#)

We also have a family's page. Please be aware that this is run by parent volunteers. There is no staff involvement. It is a good place to ask for playdates, check in the files section to find lost newsletters or information, find out about a free dress day or for any other community information sharing.

Please ensure when inviting a family member to join that they answer the security questions and please familiarise yourself with the group information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/familiesofthepatchps>