



The Armidale Waldorf School and Boongaiai Preschool

FOR RUDOLF STEINER EDUCATION

14 January 2020

Fee Information for 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are excited to celebrate at The Armidale Waldorf School 35 years of Steiner education in Armidale in 2020. A celebration recognising this wonderful milestone will be held at the Annual General Meeting on the 24th March. A very warm welcome to all the new families joining our school community and welcome back to families continuing their educational journey.

Each year the School works hard to ensure financial stability while keeping fees to a minimum. We would like to thank you for the variety of contributions you make to our School, allowing us to offer a quality Steiner education to children in Armidale and surrounding areas.

The first day of school for all students, Preschool to Class 8 will be Wednesday 29th January 2020, with the Monday being the Australia Day public holiday and Tuesday a staff planning day. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

We would like to let you know of the following for 2020:

Tuition fees

Fees for 2020 have been kept to a minimum (see Fee Information and Schedule on our website) and have incorporated a small rise of 2.8%.

Music Program Fees

We have been able to maintain 2019 costs again for 2020 for our Music Program

Cost per term (shared 1/2 hr lesson*): \$185

Cost per Term (individual 1/2 hr lesson): \$305

Cost per Term - Group lesson (Class 5 only) \$100

No hire fee for violins and cellos.

*If there is not a pair available a 15-minute private lesson will be given instead.

Kinder transitions

The School would like to remind Kindergarten parents that if their child is on a transition plan with part-time attendance during Term 1, the full tuition fees still apply.

We would also like to remind you of the following items:

Payment Plans and Financial Assistance

The School offers payment plans to assist families in spreading the cost of tuition. You may discuss making a Payment Plan to pay by monthly, fortnightly or weekly instalments. That plan must be discussed with and approved by the School Manager, *prior to 28 January 2020*. These payments are to commence on the

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first pay period in the school term (or the next available pay period if a mid-year enrolment). The School offers additional financial assistance to families where a genuine need exists. Please contact the School Manager or Education Director as soon as possible if such a need arises.

Withdrawal of Enrolment

The School must plan for, and budget for the year ahead. To ensure stability, the School therefore requires written notice of your intention to withdraw your child, with a minimum of one terms' notice. When the full one terms' written notice is given, a family will incur no additional fees beyond what they would normally pay for that term. However, if less than one terms' notice is given, a pro rata withdrawal fee of \$500 will be payable. (For example, if you give notice of your intention to withdraw at the end of week 3, then you will be charged 30% of the total withdrawal fee. Or, if you give notice in the final week of term that you will not be returning at the start of the following term, the withdrawal fee will be the full \$500).

The notice required relates to term time only and does not include any term break time.

Additionally, for those students intending to withdraw at the end of their school year, the school requires written notice of withdrawal by the last day of Term 3, (Friday 18th September 2020) to give the school a clearer picture for planning in our high school classes. The School reserves the right to charge a withdrawal fee of \$500 if the student is withdrawn without receipt of this advice. Please see Fee Information on the School website for more information.

Camps and Excursions

The fee schedule incorporates the budgeted amount for camps, combined with local excursions and performances. This cost will be charged over terms 1-3 to assist in breaking the cost down into more manageable amounts. Please see Fee Information on the School website for more information.

Building Fund

In order to maintain and improve the Schools facilities, in Term 2 each year, every family is charged a **\$250 Building Fund Fee that is optional**. If you do not wish to make this contribution, please email accounts@waldorf.nsw.edu.au and request that it is taken off your account prior to the 30th June.

Playground works and Tree Removal

Several necessary works were carried out over the break to avoid disruption to the operations of the School.

With the continuing hot and dry weather, a number of trees have unfortunately succumbed to the effects of the drought. Advice was received that it is unlikely that some of these will recover. To reduce these hazards, an arborist removed a small number of dead trees within the playground. A number of other trees have been cut back in an attempt to save them. Timber from these trees have been recycled into fencing and other materials which will be used around the School, with any leftover firewood donated to BackTrack.

The playground works were also completed over this time to improve storm water flows and reduce erosion throughout the playground. A small number of immature trees had to be removed to allow for these works. These works were also aimed at trying to retain as many trees in a healthy state as possible, by providing much needed nutrients, slowing the surface shedding of water and mulching to prevent loss of this water, it is hoped that the remaining trees lives will be greatly extended.

Bushfire Vegetation Management Plan and Hazard Reduction

In addition to the Schools Bushfire Emergency and Evacuation Plan, the school has been working on a draft Vegetation Management Plan to help reduce fire risk to our beautiful grounds. This plan will include consideration of the types and placement of vegetation, density of ground, ladder and canopy fuels and access for emergency services personnel. This plan will be shared with the whole community for input soon.

Yours sincerely,



Maureen Chapman
Chair, The Armidale Waldorf School Board