

2. SOUTH HORNBY PRIMARY SCHOOL – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	Stephen McArthur
Officer responsible:	Lesley Symington
Author:	Denise Galloway, DDI 941-6536

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to request financial assistance totalling \$2,700 from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Youth Initiatives Fund. This will assist twenty seven children from South Hornby Primary School to travel to Adelaide to perform in a music festival.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. South Hornby Primary School is a decile three school. It is currently raising funds to assist families in sending their choir to Adelaide for a music festival. Many families are struggling to pay the \$897 per child, and the school is trying to attract funding from other sources in order to reduce the cost to the families. A strong bond has been created between South Hornby Primary School and other schools in Adelaide as a result of the choir's visit in 2002 and a reciprocal visit to Christchurch from Adelaide schools in 2003.
3. The request seeks funding to assist all the families involved in the choir, as the Principal has stated that the selection of some families is very difficult and can cause dissention. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board has previously sponsored six disadvantaged families in 2002. All the families will struggle to meet the cost (\$897.00) per child, even with fundraising to decrease the amount to between \$450-\$550 each. The Principal therefore would like the Board to consider funding each family \$100, which in total amounts to \$2,700. While in Adelaide the children will perform at three schools, which are part of the festival. The choir will sing New Zealand songs, promoting New Zealand and especially Christchurch.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. The School has currently raised \$9,350.40 for the trip to Adelaide, from a range of activities, and will continue to do so. The total cost of the project is \$26,980. This amount covers flights, travel insurance and other incidentals. The airfares cost \$23,000. The School has applied to Pub Charities but was declined as the Charities do not cover travel in their criteria. Community Food Stuffs has given the school \$2,000 for uniforms (tracksuits) so the children will all look the same when they perform. Dave Adamson, head of International Relations (Christchurch City Council) has promised to provide gifts for the choir to give to their host families.
5. The Board of Trustees at South Hornby Primary School has not contributed any money towards this event because the Ministry of Education funds must be spent on the actual running of the school.

BACKGROUND ON HORNBY PRIMARY SCHOOL - REQUEST FOR FUNDING

6. In 2002 the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board gave \$2000 to South Hornby Primary School towards costs associated with six children's attendance as members of the school choir to visit Adelaide. The Principal, Lindsay Penman, has written a letter seeking funding assistance from the Community Board for the Choir's next visit in September 2005.
7. The first visit was extremely successful and South Hornby Primary School won a "Sister City Air New Zealand Award" under the entry category of "educational" in February 2004 for this event. Since then the choir has also been invited to sing at the Christchurch Town Hall at the New Zealand Citizenship Award.
8. Other benefits from attending the festival in Adelaide included the following: "The confidence of the children has improved markedly. They are now able to speak and sing in public situations and this has rubbed off on other children, resulting in this year we have huge numbers trying out for the choir. Families have also benefited and this has followed into local community as the comments from our local businesses when we sent them a laminated calendar was very positive. Our choir has sung at our local old people's home, the Hornby Mall, Avondale School and at the Addington Raceway twice" (taken from the school's entry to Air New Zealand Award).

9. The Principal also believes that this event has encouraged more boys to participate in musical activities, including the choir. He also commented on the bond between families, not only those from Adelaide who were hosts, but particularly the families of the children who were involved in the fundraising activities.
10. The September 2005 visit to Adelaide will involve twenty seven children all of whom are from the Riccarton/Wigram ward. The children will be billeted with the Hawthorndene School families for five nights.
11. The objectives of this event will be the same as those for 2003, and are as follows:
 - (a) To establish educational links with schools from our Sister City (Adelaide). This includes letter writing, fax sending, emails, artwork and when possible visiting each other.
 - (b) To foster life long friendships with children from another city that is similar, yet different to our city.
 - (c) To encourage the children to further develop their singing/choral skills by giving them the chance to perform in different venues and different audiences.
 - (d) To involve parents, teachers and associated community groups of each school community in helping to achieve and continue with the above three objectives.
12. According to the Principal, children are still corresponding with their peers in Adelaide schools and some have even managed to visit.

OPTIONS

13. In relation to this application the Community Board could choose to:
 - (a) Grant \$2,700 from its Youth Initiatives Fund (05/06) in order that all the families involved with the school choir would receive \$100 towards the cost of sending their child to the Adelaide Festival.
 - (b) Decline the application.

PREFERRED OPTION

12. The preferred option by staff is Option (a). This event has proved itself to be highly successful in 2003 and there is clear evidence that both children and families involved in the choir have benefited from the experience. A strong link between children in Adelaide and Christchurch has also been established which will continue to create a greater understanding between the two cities through the sharing of information. There has also been a significant community effort in relation to raising funds towards this event, which needs to be recognised. It is also important that each family is supported financially as it is difficult to separate out those families who can or cannot afford the costs involved. Clearly this event is a combined community effort and school effort.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board allocate \$2,700 from Youth Initiatives Fund 05/06 towards sending South Hornby Primary School choir to Adelaide in September 2005.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the officer's recommendation be adopted.