

GORDON EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM 2018

PARENT INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT

Program Aims

- TO HAVE FUN AND ENJOY MAKING MUSIC
- To give children the opportunity to enjoy learning an instrument
- To provide a warm, friendly and social musical learning environment
- To develop musical perception and musical sensitivity
- To learn music theory
- To have the opportunity to perform at assemblies and events
- To provide an extra opportunity for the children to learn about music at school

Program Operation

- Students begin lessons in Term 1, 2018
- Students must have private or group lessons on their instruments as well as attend 2 Training Band rehearsals each week. We have highly qualified and experienced tutors who teach on site after school hours.
- Training Band rehearsals begin in Term 1, 2018
- Training Band rehearsals are held twice a week -

MONDAYS: 3.15-4.25pm

WEDNESDAYS: Lunchtime

Recruitment Process

Your child has already had the opportunity to hear, see and also play many of the instruments we offer in our GEPS Band Program. We had specialised musicians assess the children with the aim of finding the most suitable instrument for each child. We take in to consideration many things - height, arm length, mouth structure, rhythmic ability to name a few. The registration form will ask you to specify your child's 3 instrument preferences. It is important to note that whilst we definitely do take these into consideration, sometimes the instrument they prefer is not suitable for them. The aim is for each child to learn an instrument of which they will be able to progress and therefore they will gain so much more enjoyment from the whole experience. I also look at the overall balance of the band. There is no point to having a band with 20 flutes, 1 trombone and 1 saxophone. A balanced band is of paramount importance. The lower brass instruments are probably the most important and exciting instruments in a concert band and I strongly encourage you to consider one of these instruments for your child.

COSTS

Instrument Lessons

- PRIVATE LESSON - approximately **\$42-\$45 for half hour lesson.**
- GROUP LESSON - slightly cheaper but dependent on how many in the group. Group is not always available.

Band Fees

- Band Fees are collected at the commencement of each semester for Training Band students and yearly for Concert Band students. Invoices are issued by the Band Committee. The amount is **\$525 per annum** for 2018.

Instrument Hire

- We do have some school instruments for hire. We will let you know if we have an instrument available for hire otherwise you will need to obtain your instrument either by hiring or purchasing elsewhere. You can go to any retailer however we recommend instrument hire from either;

Turramurra Music - Pacific Highway Turramurra: 9449-8487

Mall Music - Macquarie Shopping Centre: 8870-2000

Directions in Music - www.directionsinmusic.com.au

It is a great idea to consider hire/purchase plans. Instrument Hire from GEPS ranges between **\$200-\$300 per year** depending on which instrument.

Band Camp

- Our 2018 Band Camp will be taking place on 6-7 April, 2018 at Baden Powell Scout Centre in Thornleigh. Band Camp is a compulsory event and will be a very important part of the Band Program moving forward. The cost will be between **\$220-\$230** and will be confirmed in due course.

Extras

- Band Book - **\$22**
- Cleaning Kit-**\$25**
- Percussion Fee - **\$40**
- Music Stand- **\$20**
- Black practice display Folder - **\$2**

Is my child capable of this?

Most children have the potential to learn an instrument and enjoy the enormous benefits this brings. Studies have shown that children who learn music are advantaged academically, physically and emotionally. However, in order to be successful it is vital that each child is given the correct guidance and this begins with the selection of an instrument. Choosing the wrong instrument is the most common factor in failure – NOT lack of musical potential. Playing an instrument is not like any other activity your child does. It combines the cognitive, physical and the emotional developmental areas. Therefore, in order to find the best matched instrument for your child, all 3 of these factors need to be considered.

Cognitive aspect: For most children the best time to start learning a band instrument is around 8 years old. Very little advantage is achieved by starting earlier. What takes a 5-year-old three years to learn an 8 year old learns in months. Academic success is not a requirement. Often under achievers at school make fantastic progress with music. This usually stimulates improvement in class as well! However, it is an advantage if they can read and write reasonably fluently, do simple maths and MOST importantly have the spare cognitive energy required to begin an entirely new activity.

Physical aspect: We need to assess each child's physical make up (arm length, lips, teeth, hands, general robustness etc) as each instrument makes specific demands of its player, sometimes in surprising ways. Even if your child is 'in love' with the idea of a certain instrument, it might be physically very difficult to them to make progress on and their passion will soon turn to frustration.

Emotional aspect: From an emotional point of view, your child needs to be happy working in a team (because band is a team) and following directions so that everyone is working towards the same goals.

In order to advise you and your child correctly, an assessment of your child's physical suitability were made by qualified tutors at the Blow Tests on Wednesday, October 18th.

What is involved when my child joins up?

For most children, joining Band is a highly motivating and fun part of learning their instrument.

Children in band are expected to:

1. Fulfill a full year's commitment to the ensemble
2. Attend 2 weekly rehearsals at school
3. Attend a weekly 1/2 hr lesson with a qualified tutor (names and contacts will be provided)
4. Be available for band performances during the year, including some out of school hours and weekends.
5. Attend the annual Band Camp which takes place on a weekend.
6. Practice music regularly and show genuine interest in learning their instrument
7. Arrive promptly to all rehearsals and performances
8. Provide a written explanation from home if absent from or late to a rehearsal or performance
9. Follow the GEPS Code of Conduct – Safe. Respectful. Learners

Parents play a vital role too. We need two mums or dads to become the '*Training Band Parents*' for 2018. This would involve such things as liaising with Kellye Bettman (Director) and the Band Committee and distribution of group emails.

Which instruments are available?

While it is imperative that children are matched with an instrument that they would like to play and show potential for, it is also necessary to form a balanced sounding ensemble. The following number and type of band instruments are generally allocated to beginner students each year: (subject to availability and interest, assuming a balanced ensemble of approx 40 students)

Upper Brass

5 x Trumpet

2 x *French Horn*

Lower Brass

3 x Trombone

2 x Euphonium / Baritone

2 x *Tuba*

Woodwind

5 x Flute

8 x Clarinet

3 x Alto Sax

1 x Bass Clarinet

2 x Tenor Sax

Percussion

5 x Percussion

2 x Bass Guitar

Due to this restriction, we ask children to nominate their top 3 choices rather than just one. The following steps will be taken to determine how instruments are allocated:

1. **Blow Tests** - Children will be given the opportunity to experience the different instruments **Wednesday October 18th**. Specialists will assess whether the child is physically suited to

- each instrument.
2. Children will be asked to nominate their top 3 instrument preferences on the online registration form.
 3. Kellye Bettman (Band Director) will assess all this information.
 4. Instrument offers will be made via email.

Enrolment Conditions

The student will agree to:

- Be on time for band rehearsals twice a week.
- Attend scheduled lessons, rehearsals and performances.
- Practise regularly according to guidelines given by the instrumental teacher (aim for 4-5 times a week).
- Take care of and properly maintain their instrument.
- Take care of music books and music folder.
- Assist with the setting up of stands and packing up of all rehearsal equipment.

The parent will agree to:

- Ensure their child is on time for band rehearsals twice a week.
- Remind their child to take their instrument and music etc and what time their lesson is at.
- Support his/her child in honouring their commitment to the music program.
- Maintain contact with the band director and instrument teacher.
- Provide an instrument through either hire or purchase and keep it maintained and labelled.
- Purchase the necessary music books and equipment and keep them labelled.
- Insure their child's musical instrument (whether rented or owned) under their home insurance policy. Make sure that the cover is not restricted only to loss or damage within the home, but that cover is extended to loss or damage outside of the home. (Remember that your child takes his/her instrument to and from school at least twice a week.)

Other Important Conditions

- It is important to realise that learning to play an instrument takes time and patience. It can take at least 18 months – 2 years for most students to grasp the basic skills. Therefore, please see this as a medium-long term learning experience.

Contact Details

Program Director

Kellye Bettman – 0412602051 or email: gepsband@gmail.com

What do we do next?

Once you have decided to go ahead and register for our wonderful band program by going to

www.myschoolmusic.com.au/gepsmusic

and fill in the registration form by clicking on:

“New Students and Expressions of Interest”

Please register by Friday October 27th in order for your child to be allocated an instrument in the Band Program.

Once we have made the instrument allocations we will email you a letter of offer for your child. This letter will let you know which instrument they have been accepted into the band program on and also the tutor for that instrument. Please promptly contact the recommended music tutor in order to secure lessons. The tutors fill up fast!