



The Willows State School



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The Pitch

Music News – Issue 2

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Apologies for our first issue of The Pitch not being uploaded to the online newsletter. It was mistakenly left off. If you did not receive a copy, there are available outside the music room on the noticeboard.

It's been a very hectic couple of weeks back in organising the instrumental program. All children by now have met their instrumental teacher and had their 1st or even 2nd lesson. Children should know what day their lessons are on and have a timetable highlighted with times for their lessons. All children received their instrument that they are borrowing from the school in their first lesson, as long as the loan agreement forms were returned. Please go through the CD in the tutor book to help with putting it together and pulling it apart. It's a great way of learning together, getting to know the instrument and reinforcing the first couple of lessons. If your child has paid for an instrumental music folder, they should have already received one or will be getting it next week. You do not need to purchase a new folder if you already have one. Thank you for your prompt return of contracts, payments and loan agreement forms.

Timetables were uploaded to the school webpage and also been given to your child's teacher for display in their classroom. They are also on display outside the Performance Art Centre. Please print a copy and place on the fridge and/or in your child's diary. The first term is usually the hardest in getting organized and forming a routine. All instrumental timetables are a weekly rotation to avoid your child missing out on the same classroom lesson weekly. Instrumental teachers have been making regular phone calls to classes chasing children for lessons. Children should be getting to know who are in their group, know where they are located in the school and collect each other on the way over to the lesson. This will avoid continual disruptions and lesson time being shortened. It's a good idea to arrive at least 5 mins prior to be ready to start on time. ☺

Helping your child become organized for their lesson will help create responsibility and routine. There will be times during this first term and early second term of struggle and a feeling they will not succeed and wanting to 'quit'. Encouraging daily practice, being persistent, problem solving, showing enthusiasm, giving praise and supporting your child's learning in these first few lessons will help overcome these fears and hurdles and build a feeling of success and confidence. If you feel your child is not coping or would like some help, please contact your child's teacher so this learning experience is fun.

If your child accidentally leaves their instrument at home, it is essential that they still attend their lesson at their scheduled time. Lessons cannot be made up due to other lessons being scheduled and varying ability of groups. Your child can practice the concepts and techniques taught during that lesson at home ready for the following lesson.

Please be reminded that it is a requirement that your child is part of one or more school ensembles. This is part of receiving free instrumental lessons and is clearly stated in the instrumental contract. Being part of a group is a rewarding experience that has proven to further enhance students' musical understanding as well as teaching important skills such as team work and responsibility. Your child will have a feeling of success, improved confidence, sense of belonging and willingness to learn.

Fanfare is a statewide competition for bands and orchestras from Queensland state schools only. It happens every 2nd year and for the first time in Fanfare history, they are having a primary school grand final. Both our orchestras and concert band will be participating. Please claim the date in your diaries!! ☺

The storage room is available for your children to store their instruments in preparation for their lesson. However, it will be locked at 3pm and your child is asked to come over before the bell goes to take their instrument back home. It is a small room and it does become a tight squeeze with lots of instruments.

Please feel free to contact us with information that you would like to see in The Pitch, share your opinions or publish any news you would like to share of upcoming music events or anything of interest.

Date Claimer

DATE	WHAT'S ON – TERM 1
Week 6 Friday, 4th March	No Percussion Lessons
Week 9 Wednesday, 23rd March	FUN RUN – Lessons for Strings and Orchestra rehearsals will still continue as per timetable
DATE	WHAT'S ON – TERM 2
Week 2 Friday, 22nd April	ANZAC Day – School service time TBA
Week 6 Saturday, 21st May	FANFARE – Times TBA. Both Orchestras and Concert Band

Brass– Kelly Clarke-Flessner - kclar205@eq.edu.au Monday 11 ~ 3

All beginners learnt how to care for their instrument and put it together in the first lesson. I'm looking forward to seeing how confident they are in producing a solid, continual sound in their next lesson.

Percussion– Ian Brunskill - ibrun2@eq.edu.au Friday 11 ~ 1.10

All the percussionists are very keen and all left with big enthusiastic smiles. If you forgot your gear on Friday – ensure you are organized for your next lesson. If you were being called for, make it a goal that you arrive on time this week. ☺

Strings~ Caroline Lloyd-Doolan - clloy28@eq.edu.au Wednesday 7.30 - 3

All string lessons are well underway. Due to the clash with swimming last Wednesday, only some classes had lessons. Lessons will continue as per timetable from week 5. Children were allocated Cellos and Double Basses last Thursday. I'm looking forward to seeing the first steps of progress this week. All students received a weekly practise journal booklet during their last lesson. Please ensure you are keeping record of practise and have it filled out for the next lesson.

String Orchestra 1 & 2 ~ Caroline Lloyd-Doolan

String Orchestra 1 is back on this Wednesday morning at 7.50am in the music room. You will need to be at rehearsal prior to set up and organize and tune instruments ready for to start at 7.50am. Rehearsals for *String Orchestra 2* is at 2nd break Wednesday starting at 1.10pm. Children who are involved in orchestra and have their lessons on Thursday are welcome to leave their instrument in the storage lock up overnight to save taking it home and bringing it back again.

Woodwind~ Sarah Hill - shill256@eq.edu.au Tuesday 7.30 ~ 3 and Thursday morning 9 ~ 11

Beginning Students: All beginning students have made excellent progress over the last two lessons. There are some that still need to watch the DVD in the back of their Sound Innovations Book. It would be great if all students could finish watching this before the next lesson as it reinforces what we have been doing in the last two weeks. If there are any students that still need help reading the timetable, please send me an email so I can help you.

Continuing Students: Make sure you remember your lesson time and check the clock in class! I have been making too many calls for continuing students, reminding them of their lesson. Please don't forget!!

Concert Band~ Sarah Hill

In the two rehearsals, we have made big progress with the pieces chosen for the FANFARE competition. I am very excited to see how they sound in a few weeks. It would be great if ALL students arrive at rehearsals at 7:40am so we can start right on 7:50am. Thanks!

WOW AWARDS - Recognition of Practice and Great Work

~~ START THIS WEEK!! ~~

Students need to maintain the consistent home practice on their instrument in order to continue steadily progressing on their playing technique and note reading skills. To help acknowledge those students who regularly practice, the music staff has developed 2 ways to reward consistent home practice.

The first reward is the *"WOW" draw*. For students to be eligible, they need to undertake in 60 minutes of quality practice of both lesson and ensemble repertoire. It's an act that WOWs your teacher. For example - memorizing a piece of music, improving your tonguing/buzzing/bow technique etc. WOW slips are placed in the WOW bin for a lucky draw prize that will be drawn every week. The student who is drawn from the WOW bin will have their

choice of receiving a happy gram, icy cup or tuckshop voucher.

How many WOW slips will you get in the bin this term?

The second draw is the **100 minutes club**. This club is for students who undertake in 100 minutes or more of home practice every week. If 100 minutes are reached every week, the students name will be documented on the 100 minute club chart found in the music practice room. They will also be given a "Happy Gram" for their achievement that week. However, for the students whose names remain on the 100 minute chart all term will receive an Icy Cup. By the end of the year, students who have remained on the chart for the whole year will be invited to 100 minute club party held the end of Term 4.

Junior & Senior Choirs - Fiona Coleman

We held auditions a couple of weeks ago for all children in years 1 – 6 interested in being a member of our choral program. The choir gives the children an opportunity to improve their singing skills outside the music classroom. They have an opportunity to read music, practice musicianship skills, sing in parts, have increased friendships and improved social skills. The children have been auditioned and invited based on the quality of their voice and by identifying pitch rather than their singing experience. We have played a number of varying pitches in the voice range to accommodate all children's voices and they had to hear and sing the same pitch back with a quality tone. Any child can sing a song, but when working together as an ensemble, pitch recognition and creating harmonies is needed for quality sound. We are delighted to see so many children willing to extend their musical abilities outside the music classroom and we understand there will be a few sad faces. We are not at all saying no to your child forever and if they feel they can do better as the year goes on, please come and re-audition.

If your child was successful, they received a letter of congratulations last week and a contract of commitment form. Please ensure they have a display folder to keep music/words in and it's brought to all rehearsals. An electronic roll will be set up so children are recording their attendance and it will be included as an extra-curricular activity on their report card. Children will be invited to eisteddfod and other performances based on their attendance and effort recorded in the roll. Junior Rehearsal starts this week on Wednesday at 1st break. Senior Rehearsals started last Friday and will continue on Friday's for this term at 2nd break. Morning rehearsals will start in Term 2. Children will be notified of when this is to start and it published here in our newsletter.

Music Shirts, Folders/Music, School Instruments

Thanks to the couple of parents who have already volunteered their time to help wash shirts. Thanks also for the prompt payments. We do ask that your child is prepared for any upcoming performances. It is a requirement that all children wear with their shirts, navy blue skirts, skorts or shorts, white ankle socks (above the shoe) and black closed in shoes for performances. Most children have received their school instrumental folder. If you have paid and your child has still not received theirs, please come and see us. There is no need to purchase another folder if you already own one.

Rock Band ~ Trevor Schimke

Selected students are already displaying great commitment. Rehearsals are during lunchtimes and before school and they are getting ready to perform at assemblies on a regular basis to showcase the talent our school is producing. Students are given music to learn regularly and I have asked that they keep it altogether in a folder that they bring to lessons. I am looking forward to working with the new group this year.

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

MUSICALS and PERFORMANCES

When you hear someone create music, something special happens – it evokes emotions. When children hear live music, it resonates with them emotionally. When children experience a live performance, they will begin to understand that it takes a person and an instrument or a voice to create music. A part of hearing live music is the value in just listening. Listening is doing something and this helps them build that skill. You and your child will begin to appreciate music when it's presented to them and experience and enjoy it together. Watching live music will also inspire your child with their playing. There are many local community groups that present small concerts and musicals around Townsville. Check your local newspaper, Civic Theatre, Townsville Choral Society and local Websites for upcoming performances.

Musically Yours,

Fiona Coleman & Trevor Schimke

Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education. ~ *Plato*

I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning. ~ *Plato*