



The Willows State School



(07) 4799 1333



(07) 4723 4665

The Pitch

Music News – Issue 19

Wk 7 – 14th November, 2016

Fiona Coleman – fcole7@eq.edu.au

Trevor Schimke – tschi15@eq.edu.au

Recruitment testing for 2017 has now been finalised. Testing was done to see if your child is suited to their preferred instrument and if they are physically able to blow it if necessary. Children were physically tested on every instrument. Unfortunately the preferred instrument is not always suited due to physical attributes, so the child is offered another choice when they see what is available to them. All children who applied received a note last Friday to inform you that they have been accepted, unaccepted or put on a waiting list. Acceptance is based on assessment covering pitch, rhythm, embouchure, musicality, behaviour, numeracy, literacy and reading level achievements by the instrumental instructor, classroom music teacher and classroom teacher. We also look at how many children are continuing in the program and how many minutes of instrumental instruction has been allocated to the school for 2017. Class sizes are based on an average of 6 children per class and distributing instruments to find a balance for ensembles. All children who were accepted should have attended our information evening on Wednesday, 16th November.

There are parents in the school who have instruments to sell for next year's recruits. Lots of students will be upgrading or not continuing around the Townsville area, so there is a good chance to pick up a quality secondhand instrument. Look in your local papers regularly – but please get any instrument checked thoroughly by someone to make sure any repairs will not outweigh the cost of the instrument. We strongly discourage buying from Ebay. If you have an instrument to sell – please email Fiona and I'll do my best to get it into the next newsletter before school finishes. You will need to supply the instrument, brand, cost, contact name and number.

This is our last newsletter from the music department for the year. A big thank you to all our choral and instrumental music members for 2016 and parents. We could not have had such a successful year with our Performance and Gala nights, Eisteddfod, Fanfare and school events without your help in getting your children to rehearsals and lessons. Organisation, persistence, confidence and resilience are all life-long learning skills that your child has accomplished well this year. We look forward to continuing our successful program with your help in 2017.

All the best to our graduating year 6 students. Thank you for your contribution to our music program, your dedication to our group is greatly appreciated. We hope your music journey continues into high school and you fulfil your dreams and take with you lots of great memories of your childhood experiences. Don't forget to come back and visit us!!

Thanks to our instrumental teachers for the extra time they give to our school to assist our children in performing their best for all our concerts. A live CD has been compiled of our performance night held at the beginning of this term. A copy of this CD will be distributed to children during the last week of school as a gift from us. A reminder that it is for personal use only.

Break up parties will be happening with the instrumental teachers for band and orchestra etc. The instrumental teachers will inform you of when that is happening. Please remember when bringing food that it is a small healthy plate and be aware of allergies.

I'm on long service leave during week 10. Trevor and the instrumental teachers will be here to answer any questions you may have. Have a lovely Christmas break and may your time with family and friends be joyful and relaxing. Enjoy the moments as they are what make those cherished memories with loved ones. Merry Christmas!! ☺

School Christmas Concert

All children are preparing for the end of year Christmas concert from this week during classroom music lessons. They are all excited about dressing up in their Christmas attire and performing for everyone on stage. All year levels will perform 2 songs on Wednesday, 30th November. Everyone is invited to bring a blanket/chairs to sit on and have a picnic dinner. Drinks and the coffee van will be available from about 5pm onwards with the event starting when the sun goes down around 6.00pm. There is some food available to purchase, but you may like to bring a picnic dinner or snack food for yourselves. It is a great night of festivities and a great whole school activity where everyone can relax, dress up and enjoy a great night of entertainment. There will also be performances from our school ensembles, bands and combined choir. We hope to see many of you there.

Date Claimer

DATE	WHAT'S ON – TERM 4
Week 8 --Thursday, 24th November	Willows Shoppingtown Performance 6.00pm Be at Market Court at 5.30pm.
Week 9 – Wednesday 30th November	Christmas Carols All year levels, Instrumental and Choir
Week 9 – Friday, 2nd December	All instruments returned for cleaning and repairs
Week 10 – Wednesday, 7th December	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony - Senior Choir/RockBand TCBC

Strings~ Caroline Lloyd-Doolan - clloy28@eq.edu.au Wednesday 7.30 - 3 Thursday 11 - 3pm

All students in **Orchestra** who are participating in the Wednesday Carols night must attend rehearsals. Rehearsal is a combined orchestra rehearsing at 2nd Break on Wednesday. If not many people are showing up, we will have to cancel our performance for the night. There are a lot of students missing due to swimming over the breaks and children who are just not showing up on time. Please make an effort for your last performance of the year. The timetable has been altered slightly to accommodate for swimming lessons. Please ensure your child received a new timetable printed on yellow paper and be organized and ready for lessons.

Break up parties for Junior Orchestra will be Wednesday 30th November at 1st Break and Senior Orchestra will be Thursday 1st December at 2nd Break. **Please bring along a healthy plate to share. Nut free food please. ☺**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and parents for their hard work this year it has been a very successful year and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2017!

String Orchestra & String Ensemble & Beginner Strings ~ Caroline Lloyd-Doolan

As above

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

All students have completed their theory and performance assessment. Please make sure you are still attending rehearsals and lessons until the end of term. A reminder that all instruments need to be returned after the Christmas concert in wk 9. Please ensure you have followed the instructions on bathing your instrument properly. If you are unsure, please contact me for further information. Thank you for a wonderful year and I look forward to more music making in 2017. ☺

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

All assessment is being finalized and the children have done a great job. We need to be better organized in getting to lessons. There have been a few changes due to swimming lessons on at the same time as percussion - so adjustments have been made to cater for children attending both lessons for the rest of the term. All children attending swimming should come dressed to lessons straight after 1st break. Thanks for a productive year and I'm looking forward to working with you all in 2017. Have a great break! ☺

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

All students have had to prepare two songs over two weeks for exams, most students have been succeeding. Thanks for your dedication towards your instrument. I would like to see more students record their minutes practice in their books as many have been practicing yet I cannot give them a WOW award without the written proof. The weekly prize is a tuckshop voucher!! For students borrowing instruments, I hope all parents and carers are looking into purchasing an instrument for 2017. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to email me on shill256@eq.edu.au

Junior Concert Band & Senior Concert Band - Sarah Hill

Beginner Band: Students have been working well toward 2 new pieces, one of which is a Christmas song for the upcoming concert. Please ensure students are arriving with enough time to set up their instruments as we have been starting a little late. I would like to acknowledge Cheyene R., Tanika K., Alex S., Nicholas D., Matthew S. and Caileigh F. for helping with band setup. Students, please continue with a consistent practice schedule at home!!

Break up parties for Woodwind and Bands will be Thursday 1st December at 1st Break. **Please bring along a healthy small plate to share. Nut free food please. ☺**

Senior Concert Band: Congratulations to all these students with rehearsal attendance, and to their wonderful performance at the Remembrance Day Ceremony. They represented The Willows Instrumental Music Program well ☺ Please continue to work on the Christmas Song. I will be giving out a new song this week as well. See you all at this week's rehearsal!!

WOW AWARDS - Recognition of Practice and Great Work

~ ~ Are you on the list this week? ~ ~

★ 🏆 🏆 CONGRATULATIONS 🏆 🏆 ★

WOW Awards - Rhyanna CS

100 minutes of practise -

Junior & Senior Choirs - Fiona Coleman

What a wonderful ceremony and performance at our Remembrance Day service last Friday by our Senior Choir. Your sound achieved this year is truly beautiful. Congratulations and many thanks to all our wonderful choir singers. We are very proud of your efforts this year and look forward to you becoming a member again in 2017. We will hold auditions for positions next year.

I've had a huge response from children wanting to be involved in the **Christmas concert at Willows Shoppingtown** on Thursday 24th November at 6pm. Approximately 80 children!! WOW!! ☺ ☺

We will meet in the new Market Court section from 5.30pm. Every child who performs is supporting the Golden Octopus Foundation and receives a small gift from Santa. Rehearsals are now combined for both junior and senior and are rehearsing for the next couple of weeks on Monday morning from 8am, Wednesday, 1st break and Friday 2nd break. This is to ensure that everyone gets a rehearsal together on Monday morning and for those students at swimming lessons don't miss out on too much. It is essential that you attend at least 2

of the rehearsals each week, if not all 3 to prepare for our Christmas concert.

Music Shirts, Folders/Music, School Instruments

Thanks again to all the wonderful mums who helped wash the shirts. We will be using them again for the choirs on Thursday, 24th November at Willows Shoppingtown for our Christmas performance. It is essential that every child returns their shirt the day after the performance so they can be washed and put away for 2017.

All instruments will be collected on Friday, 2nd December for repairs and cleaning and to get ready for our 2017 instrumentalists. If you are a beginner and continuing into 2017, you need to purchase your own instrument. If you need further information on this, please contact your child's instrumental teacher or myself. If your child is eligible to borrow their instrument again for next year and if it is not needed for repairs, you may keep it to practise over the holidays. A holiday loan agreement form must be signed. You need to see Mrs Coleman or your instrumental teacher ASAP.

If your child has outgrown their instrument or looking at upgrading, you are more than welcome to advertise the instrument through this school newsletter. We always have parents looking for good quality secondhand instruments. Please contact me with any information you would like published for the next newsletter before Friday 25th November.

All instruments will be collected on Friday, 4th December for repairs and cleaning and to get ready for our 2017 instrumentalists. If you are a beginner and continuing into 2017, you need to purchase your own instrument. I have current price lists available and contact details of retailers if you are seeking further information.

Thanks again for all your support this year. Have a lovely Christmas and see you all again in 2017. ☺

Musically Yours,

Fiona Coleman & Trevor Schimke

“Life is one grand sweet song to start the music.” ~Ronald Reagan

“Do not neglect your music, it will be a companion which will sweeten many hours of life to you.” ~ Thomas Jefferson

