



The Willows State School



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The Pitch

Music News – Issue 1

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Welcome to the first issue of 'The Pitch' for 2017. A newsletter designed especially for the music department at The Willows State School. The Pitch is generated to inform you of events coming up and news about what is happening with the children involved in the music program. We will endeavor to keep you informed as much as possible, but there may be an occasion where events just pop up with little notice. We would like to have more involvement between parents and teachers and feel that The Pitch will help create this communication. Emails are the most common form of communication. If you can let your child's teacher know of a current email address or make sure your details are updated on our system in case they need to contact you. Teacher's emails are listed below.

Our Performing Arts Centre is centered right in the middle of the school. You can't miss us – or our big sign. All music lessons and rehearsals will be in this block. A reminder that **more than 3 lessons** missed may result in your child not continuing in the program. Please ensure you inform the school or teacher of your child's absence. This is all recorded as part of the reporting process at the end of each semester.

A meeting was scheduled to meet the instrumental teachers last Monday 30th January. All children received either a contract commitments form or loan agreement for instruments being borrowed. The letter also contained media release permission, information about a \$5 shirt levy and purchasing of our school Music Folder with the school emblem embossed on the front for \$11. Children will receive this in their lesson when payment is made. Thank you for the prompt return of notes and payments.

Instruments will be handed over in the first lesson (Week 3) after they have initially put the instrument together and the loan agreement form has been returned and payment made.

Any children who have recently enrolled at our school and are interested in being a part of our choral or instrumental program or continuing their playing/singing are very welcome to participate. Please come and speak with us ASAP so we can assist in providing you with further information.

Responsibility for learning and organisation only starts with a little guided help. All children love to see the enthusiasm on their parents' faces. It is important that you support your child by encouraging daily practice of at least 10 minutes and by ensuring that he/she is prepared for his/her lesson on the appropriate days. **It is going to be hard and challenging at times – but being persistent will result in a feeling of success.** Usually by term 2, we see children taking their own initiative to be prepared without reminders. If you feel your child is struggling, please don't give up. We have strategies to help guide your child into making practice a habit and are here to help. ☺

Every child should have received a timetable this week. Timetables are attached to the online page of the newsletter. Please print and place on the fridge and/or in your child's diary. Teachers will have a timetable on display in their classrooms and there is also one displayed outside the Performing Arts Centre. Each child will also receive one to place in their music folders.

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.

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. Don't forget our school website has been updated for music. Go to the following link and see all the great things we offer and the benefits of what learning music does for your child.

<https://thewillowsss.eq.edu.au/Extracurricular/Music/Pages/Music.aspx>

Date Claimer

DATE	WHAT'S ON – TERM 1
Week 3	All instrumental lessons begin!! ☺
Week 3 Friday, 10th February	Senior Choir Performance for Investiture Ceremony @ 2.15pm
Week 4 Wednesday, 15th February	Beginner Strings Workshop – 10 – 11am Music room - due to swimming carnival clash on Thursday.
Week 4 Thursday, 16th February	Swimming Carnival Beginner String Lessons – Wednesday 15 th February instead Woodwind Lessons – Please check with Miss Hill
Week 6 Friday, 3rd March	No Percussion Lessons

Strings– Caroline Lloyd-Doolan - clloy28@eq.edu.au Wednesday 9 ~ 3 & Thursday 11am ~ 2.55pm

Welcome to another exciting year of Strings! By now all students should have seen me at the meeting last Friday. Lessons are commencing this Wednesday and Thursday of week 3.

Orchestra is also starting and your child should have received a letter explaining what day and times they will be starting.

It is vital all lessons and orchestra rehearsals are attended from the very start in order to maximise learning.

If your child is absent from school or cannot attend orchestra please email me on clloy28@eq.edu.au I look forward to another rewarding and productive year with your child.

Brass– Kelly Hosking - kclar205@eq.edu.au Monday 11am ~ 2.55pm

Hi Brassies! Don't forget lessons started this Monday, week 3 at first break. Remember to bring all your equipment including your music folder, Sound Innovations book, creams and oils and make sure your name is on all your accessories.

For Senior Brass students, you should have attended the first senior concert band rehearsal for the year on

Wednesday morning. It is important that you arrive on time and your instrument is ready to be played (no stuck slides or sluggish valves ☺)

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

Lessons started last Friday. We have lots of keen percussionists ready to learn. I am looking forward to see what the year has in store for us.

Woodwind ~ Sarah Hill - shill256@eq.edu.au Tuesday 9am ~ 2.55pm & Thursday 9am ~ 11am

A warm welcome to all parents of continuing and new students! In this section, I will write important messages and tips regarding woodwind lessons.

For the continuing students, I hope that all are ready to get back into their lessons this week. Make sure that all equipment is replenished, especially reeds, mouthpiece protectors and cork grease. Some of the groups have changed this year- get your student to check their new group letter so there is no confusion.

For the beginning students, I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in your first lesson. You will receive your allocated instrument and I will check the equipment to make sure everything is okay. Music stands are supplied during lessons, so there is no need to bring one! I ask that all parents of beginners that are borrowing instruments, return the loan form before or on the first lesson so they are able to bring their instrument home. If your student has the Sound Innovations book, there is a DVD enclosed which has helpful tips on how to assemble, maintain, and produce a sound. It is a great idea to watch this either before or after the very first lesson. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email. Happy playing!

WOW AWARDS - Recognition of Practice and Great Work

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 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 student's 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.

String Orchestra & Junior Orchestra – Caroline Lloyd-Doolan

Rehearsals began this week on Wednesday morning for Seniors in the rehearsal space of the performing arts centre. Members are to arrive by 7.40am to tune and be seated for a 7.50am start. Juniors are required to be at the music room by 1.10pm ready to start ASAP during the break.

Concert Band – Sarah Hill

Rehearsals begin this week on Tuesday mornings. Students are required to be at G Pod promptly at 7:40am. There is a concert band list and a concert band layout in the practice room if students are interested to see where they will sit for the term. We have some new challenges for the year- I have chosen 2 pieces this term to work on. I cannot wait to see the future progress!

Junior and Senior Choirs – Fiona Coleman & Trevor Schimke

I was delighted to see so many children willing to extend their musical abilities outside the music classroom. The enthusiasm for children wanting to become members of the choir has been extraordinary. Auditions for our junior (Years 1,2,3) and senior (years 4, 5 6) choirs were held last Tuesday. All children have been notified on their success and had their first rehearsal last Friday.

Our first performance is the Investiture Ceremony this Friday, 10th February. All members of Senior choir will be singing for this event. Extra rehearsals to prepare for this performance are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday at 1st break. We will meet again on Friday at 2nd break which will be our regular rehearsal time for the year. You are more than welcome to attend our ceremony and hear the first performance of what is going to be an amazing year of singing!! ☺

Children selected will receive a note this week with a contract of commitment and request to pay \$5 for shirt hire. Please return these notes signed and ensure the media release section is also signed in anticipation of any local performances we may be asked to perform at. Please ensure they have a display folder to keep music/words in and that it's brought to every rehearsals. An electronic roll has been set up so children are recording their attendance. Children will be invited to eisteddfod and other performances based on their attendance and effort recorded in the roll. Choir rehearsals will be on Friday 2nd break for Seniors and Juniors on Wednesday at 1st break. Rehearsals will start in week 4. Before school rehearsals for Seniors will be published via the newsletter later in the term.

Music Shirts, Folders/Music, School Instruments

Children will be allocated a shirt in the coming weeks which is to be stored at the school. A note has been sent home asking for \$5 towards the cost of washing these shirts after every performance. If you are willing to help with washing, you will not be required to pay. 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 as indicated on the note.

All instruments have been cleaned, repaired and returned over the school holidays. Please ensure you and your child are aware of the loan agreement conditions for the year. Loan agreement forms and \$100 hire fee need to be paid and returned by the 1st lesson so your child can take it home. If there are any breakages or concerns with the instrument, please report to us immediately so it can be repaired. If the damage is deliberate, you will be required to cover the cost of repairs.

Folders are required for all performances. The folders are very durable and will last your child a long time if well looked after. They will be handed out upon payment during their lesson. If your child has paid and we have missed giving them a folder, please ensure they ask myself or their instrumental instructor.

Rock Band – Trevor Schimke

Congratulations to all the 14 successful year 5 and 6 students who auditioned last week for the Rock Band. There is an abundance of talented students at our school and it is great to witness improvement in students as they develop their skills. Notes were sent home Friday to be returned ASAP. Other aspiring students will be able to attend lessons with the various groups to develop their skills for next year. The timetable will be displayed on the window in Mr Schimke's room. Lessons will commence this week with our first rehearsal scheduled for Monday week 4. I am looking forward to another great year working with the band.

~ 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 Websites and Facebook for upcoming performances.

Musically Yours,

Fiona Coleman & Trevor Schimke

Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory. ~ *Sir Thomas Beecham*