



The Willows State School

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The Pitch

Music News - Issue 1

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Wk 2 - 29th January, 2018

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Welcome to the first issue of 'The Pitch' for 2018. 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. We will be generating a distribution list, so please ensure we can contact you so you don't miss important information. We will also be using the Willows State School P&C Facebook page. Please like and keep informed for last minute changes.

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 in week 1. All children confirmed if they were playing or continuing so contracts, loan agreements and timetables could be organized ready to be distributed ASAP. The letter also contained media release permission, information about a \$50 music program fee 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.

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 and were published on FB. 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

WHAT'S ON - TERM 1	
Week 2	All instrumental lessons, begin!! 😊
Tuesday	Concert Band Rehearsals starts @ 7.50am
Wednesday	Orchestra Rehearsal starts @ 7.50am Junior Orchestra starts @ 1.10pm
Week 2	Auditions for Junior and Senior Choir (Various times through week)
Week 4 Wednesday, 14th February	May be changes to strings timetable due to swimming carnival. Please see teacher
Week 4 Friday, 16th February	Investiture Ceremony – Senior Choir performance
Week 8 Thursday 15th & Friday 16th March	Pinnacles Workshop @ KSHS Intermediate and Advanced players.

Strings- Caroline Lloyd-Doolan -
clloy28@eq.edu.au

Wednesday 7.30am - 3.00pm

Thursday 11.00am - 3.00pm

Welcome to another exciting year of Strings! By now all students should have seen me at the meeting in week 1. Was lovely to have some new faces to the school willing to be part of our program too. Lessons commenced Wednesday and Thursday of week 2.

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.



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.

Brass- Kelly Clarke-Flesser -

kclar205@eq.edu.au

Monday 11.00am - 3.00pm,

Friday 1.55pm- 2.55pm

Hi Brassies! Lessons started this week and I'm looking forward to working with our new beginners from week 3. 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.

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

Percussion- Ian Brunskill -

ibrun2@eq.edu.au

Friday 11.00am - 1.10pm

Lessons started Friday, week 2. If there are any children keen to be part of the percussion program, please come and speak to a music teacher or myself ASAP.

Woodwind - Ruby Johnson

rjohn479@eq.edu.au

Tuesday 7.30am - 3.00pm

Thursday 9.00am - 11.00am

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. As some of the groups have changed this year ask 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 in week 3. 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 and make payment 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!



Senior Concert Band

Ruby Johnson

Rehearsals began 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 to work on this term. I cannot wait to see the future progress! We have 49 Students in our band this year - Very Exciting!!!

Junior & Senior Choirs

Fiona Coleman

I'm looking forward to having the children extend their musical abilities outside the music classroom and become a member of our choirs. Auditions for our junior (Years 1,2,3) and senior (years 4, 5 6) choirs were held through the week. All children will be notified on their success.

Our first performance is the Investiture Ceremony on Friday 16th February. All members of Senior choir will be singing for this event. **Extra rehearsals to prepare for this performance will be scheduled.** 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 \$50 music levy. 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 it's brought to every

rehearsal. 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 Thursday at 1st break. Rehearsals will start in week 4.** Before school rehearsals for Seniors will be published via the newsletter later in the term. This will occur on Monday mornings.

Music Shirts, Folders/Music, School Instruments/Fees

All children who are part of the music program are required to pay a compulsory \$50 music program fee. This will assist in maintaining and upgrading music uniforms, maintaining the music library, photocopying, music scores, competition entry fees, upgrading accessories, equipment and instruments and Eisteddfod bus.

All instruments have been cleaned, repaired and returned over the school holidays. If your child is borrowing a school instrument, a loan fee of \$100 is payable before your child is allowed to take the instrument home. This must be accompanied by the Education Queensland's Equipment form signed by you and your child. Please ensure you and your child are aware of the loan agreement conditions for the year.

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.



Children will be allocated a shirt in the coming weeks which is to be stored at the school. We do ask that your child is prepared for any upcoming performances. It is a requirement that all children wear 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.

Folders are required for all performances. These are available from the music teachers and all payments of \$11 are to be made at admin. 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.

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