



The Willows State School

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# *The Pitch*

**Music News - Issue 2**

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**Wk 4/5 - 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

**Trevor Schimke - [tschi15@eq.edu.au](mailto:tschi15@eq.edu.au)**

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 1<sup>st</sup> or even 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson. Children should know what day their lessons are on and have a timetable highlighted with times for their lessons. All children should have received their instrument that they are borrowing from the school during their lesson, as long as the loan agreement forms and monies 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 a school instrumental music folder, they should have already received one or will be getting it next few weeks. You do not need to purchase a new folder if you already have one. Thank you for your prompt return of signed contracts, payments and loan agreement forms.

I have been thrilled with the excitement of our beginner instrumentalists so far. Not only are they remembering to turn up to lessons but are also giving up their lunchtimes to come in and share their lovely 'sounds'. Awesome effort!! Well done to you all!! ☺ ☺ Just a reminder that the school instruments are not to be used out in the play areas. If the students are willing to practice during lunch come and use the music rooms.

Please check that your child has all requirements needed for their chosen instrument. Some children are turning up with their instrument and no other equipment. The tutor book must be purchased so your child can progress and have success.

Timetables will be uploaded to the school webpage and have 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. 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. ☺ There is a timetable at the end of this newsletter with days/times of rehearsals/lessons for your information.

Helping your child become organized for their lesson will help create responsibility and routine. There will be times during this first term and early 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 student's 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.

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

| WHAT'S ON - TERM 1  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Week 4 Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>                            | <b>Investiture Ceremony – Senior Choir performance</b>                             |
| <b>Week 8 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>Pinnacles Workshop @ KSHS Intermediate and Advanced players.</b>                |
| <b>Week 9 Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>                               | <b>FUN RUN – Percussion Lessons may be affected but will run as per timetable.</b> |

**Strings- Caroline Lloyd-Doolan -**  
[clloy28@eq.edu.au](mailto:clloy28@eq.edu.au)

**Wednesday 7.30am – 3pm**

**Thursday 11am – 3pm**

Hello to all my continuing and beginner students! What a wonderful start to the year with so many of you coming to your first lesson on time and with all the correct equipment needed to start lessons this year! Congratulations and keep it up.

A reminder that orchestra started in week 2. Attending all rehearsals is a very important part of being in the instrumental program as it is an ensemble based program. There have been a few students who have yet to attend. Please let me know via email if your child cannot attend so I can mark them on the roll as absent. Unexplained absences when the child is at school will result in a courtesy email home.

All students who have now been learning for 3 years will need to buy the new method book.

I have asked that we all have this book ready for the start of term 2. The book is called String Basics Book 2 for your child's



instrument. As with the first book it will last about 12-18 months of learning.

The beginners had their first lesson and we learnt how to hold our instruments and the correct way to pluck! There are a few students still without books, shoulder rests and spare strings. Please try and have these ready for the next lesson so they can properly practice at home.

All continuing students received their practice charts last week.

Regular practice throughout the week is ESSENTIAL and EXPECTED.

It is far better to practise between 10-15 minutes every second day then trying to fit in one big practise session only once a week. Short term memory only lasts about 48 hours so any new skills are lost if they are not reinforced. This is no different to learning any other subject at school and success depends on regular commitment to their instrument.

We now have the Go for Green charts and we would love to reward students who are trying their best each week. Students can achieve a green light simply by practicing and signing their charts, bringing their equipment and coming to their lessons!

Until next time keep enjoying your music and please email me if you have any questions and I will try and help as best I can.

**Brass- Kelly Clarke-Flessner -**  
[kclar205@eq.edu.au](mailto:kclar205@eq.edu.au)  
**Monday 11am - 3pm**

### **Friday 1.55pm- 2.55pm**

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. Still some children without equipment. The tutor book is needed ASAP for your child to have success.

**Percussion- Ian Brunskill -**  
[ibrun2@eq.edu.au](mailto:ibrun2@eq.edu.au)

### **Friday 11am - 1.10pm**

Lessons have continued smoothly and we have our new beginners ready to make some noise. Their enthusiasm into their first lessons was awesome and all left with big smiles. Practice is essential so we can keep moving forward and making quality progress. ☺ If you forgot your gear - ensure you are organised for your next lesson.

**Woodwind - Ruby Johnson**  
[rjohn479@eq.edu.au](mailto:rjohn479@eq.edu.au)

### **Tuesday 7.30am - 3pm**

### **Thursday 9am - 11am**

Welcome to week four woodwind players and parents!

It has been great to welcome the new woodwind students to the instrumental music program and see the continuing students in lessons and rehearsals during the past two weeks. Beginning students will start to receive their instruments and will need to have the necessary equipment to start playing! All students need to have their Sound Innovations Book 1 ready and clarinet and saxophone players will need to have their reeds to begin making sounds!



Being a part of the Instrumental Music program is a team effort and regular practice needs to be done to create wonderful music together. Small regular practices will result in greater outcomes than a larger practice once a week.

### Senior Concert Band

#### **Ruby Johnson**

Senior band rehearsal commences at 7:40am every Wednesday morning. This ensemble is currently preparing for Fanfare and it is important that we have a full ensemble each week. I am looking forward to the next few weeks of music making and will see everyone in their lessons and band rehearsals!

### Junior & Senior Choirs

#### **Fiona Coleman**

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 in the auditions, they received a letter of congratulations last week and a contract of commitment form. Please return these forms ASAP so invoices for the compulsory program fee can be arranged for children who are not part of the instrumental program. 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 Choir Rehearsal will start in week 5 on Thursday's at 1<sup>st</sup> break. Senior Rehearsals started last Friday and will continue on Friday's for this term at 2<sup>nd</sup> break. Monday morning rehearsals will start in Week 5.

Our first performance is the Investiture Ceremony on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. All members of Senior Choir will be singing for this event. 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!! 😊

**GO FOR GREEN - Recognition of Practice and Great Work**





~ ~ STARTS 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 practise, organized for their lessons with correct equipment and turning up on time, the music staff have developed 2 rewards.

## "Go for Green!"

The traffic light image represents 3 different levels of student **EFFORT**. Students will place the appropriate dot beside their name to reflect their weekly level of effort towards instrumental music.



**RED DOT:** I attended my lesson but I am **UNORGANISED**  
(didn't bring either my instrument, book or folder)

**YELLOW DOT:** I attended my lesson but **DIDN'T** practise this week.

**GREEN DOT:** I attended my lesson, practised AND brought my equipment.

Black space in the table = You didn't come to your lesson  
OR arrange a different lesson this week ☹

**RED DOT:** I attended my lesson but I am **UNORGANISED** (didn't bring either my instrument, book or folder)

**YELLOW DOT:** I attended my lesson but **DIDN'T** practise this week.

**GREEN DOT:** I attended my lesson, practised AND brought my equipment.

The second award works in with our school PBL where students doing an outstanding job in lessons, practising, improving skills, "WOW-ing" their teacher will receive stars towards their '75 star chart' in their classroom towards the end of week 5 party etc.

**Music Shirts, Folders/Music,  
School Instruments/Fees**

Thank you to all our families with the prompt payments of fees and returns of contract and loan agreement forms. All children who are part of the music program are required to pay a compulsory \$50 music program fee. There are still a few outstanding. 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.

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 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.

Folders are required for all performances. These are available from the music teachers and all payments of \$11 are to be made at the office. Some payments for folders are still outstanding. 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

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

## 2018 MUSIC PROGRAM TIMETABLE



| DAY/TIME | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   |
|----------|---|--|---|--|--|
| 7.50am   |   | SENIOR<br>CONCERT BAND<br>Ruby Johnson<br><a href="mailto:rjohn479@eq.edu.au">rjohn479@eq.edu.au</a> | STRING<br>ORCHESTRA   | BEGINNER<br>CONCERT BAND<br>(Term 2)   |  |
| 8.00am   | SENIOR CHOIR<br>(Week 3)<br>Fiona Coleman &<br>Trevor Schimke                                       |  |   |  |  |
| 9.00am   |   | WOODWIND<br>LESSONS<br>Ruby Johnson<br><a href="mailto:rjohn479@eq.edu.au">rjohn479@eq.edu.au</a>    | STRINGS<br>LESSONS<br>Caroline Lloyd-<br>Deaton<br><a href="mailto:clloy28@eq.edu.au">clloy28@eq.edu.au</a> | WOODWIND<br>LESSONS<br>Ruby Johnson<br><a href="mailto:rjohn479@eq.edu.au">rjohn479@eq.edu.au</a>                        |  |
| 11.00am  | BRASS LESSONS<br>Kelly Clarke-Elliott<br><a href="mailto:kclar203@eq.edu.au">kclar203@eq.edu.au</a> |  |   | JUNIOR CHOIR<br>Fiona Coleman<br>Trevor Schimke  | PERCUSSION<br>LESSONS<br>Ian Brunskill<br><a href="mailto:ibrun20@eq.edu.au">ibrun20@eq.edu.au</a> |
| 11.40am  |   |  |   | STRINGS<br>LESSONS<br>BEGINNERS<br>Caroline Lloyd-<br>Deaton<br><a href="mailto:clloy28@eq.edu.au">clloy28@eq.edu.au</a> |  |
| 1.10pm   |   |  | JUNIOR<br>ORCHESTRA<br>Caroline Lloyd-<br>Deaton  |  | SENIOR CHOIR<br>Fiona Coleman<br>Trevor Schimke  |
| 1.55pm   |   |  | STRINGS<br>LESSONS  |  |  |
| 2.55pm   |   |  |   |  |  |

