



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 2020. 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 and P&C Facebook pages. 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.

All children by now have met their instrumental teacher and had their 1<sup>st</sup> or 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 will receive one during their lesson or will be getting it in the 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.

Every child should have received a timetable this week. Timetables were also emailed home. 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 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.



I have been thrilled with the excitement of our beginner instrumentalists so far. Not only are they remembering to turn up to lessons but some 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, that if they are willing to practise during lunch to come and use the music rooms.

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.**

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 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.

Please be reminded that 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.

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>

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.

### Date Claimer

WHAT'S ON - TERM 1	
<b>Week 2</b>	All Instrumental Lessons and Orchestra/Band Rehearsals Begin
<b>Week 3 Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Investiture Ceremony – Senior Choir
<b>Week 4 Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	String Lesson Changes due to swimming Carnival – Check Timetable

**Strings- Carla Mulligan -**  
[cjmul1@eq.edu.au](mailto:cjmul1@eq.edu.au)

**Wednesday 7.30 - 3**

**Thursday 11 - 3pm**

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 last Wednesday and Thursday of week 2.

Orchestra has also started and your child should have received a letter explaining what day and times to arrive.

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 [cjmul1@eq.edu.au](mailto:cjmul1@eq.edu.au) I look forward to

another rewarding and productive year with your child.

**String Orchestra & Junior Orchestra -**

**Carla Mulligan**

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.

**Brass- Kelly Clarke-Flesser -**

[kclar205@eq.edu.au](mailto:kclar205@eq.edu.au)

**Monday 11 - 3,**

Hi Brassies! Lessons started this week and will continue every Monday. I'm looking forward to working with our continuing students and new beginners. 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](mailto:ibrun2@eq.edu.au)

**Friday 11 - 3pm**

Lessons started Friday. They 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. Practise is essential so we can keep moving forward and making quality progress. ☺ If you forgot your gear - ensure you are organise for your next lesson.



**Woodwind - Ruby Johnson**

**[rjohn479@eq.edu.au](mailto:rjohn479@eq.edu.au)**

**Monday 9 - 11**

**Tuesday 7.30 - 3**

Welcome back to 2020 woodwind players! Lessons are on Monday's and Tuesday's this year. Timetables are displayed on the notice board outside and in your lesson room. There are copies of your timetable in a plastic sleeve in the lesson room. Please read your timetable carefully. If you have any questions about it please see Mrs Coleman or myself (Miss Johnson).

Continuing students, please have your instruments, method books and your pencil ready for your first lesson. Beginner students, please have your method book, reeds, cleaning clothes and pencils ready for your first lesson. You will receive your instrument in this lesson if you have paid your fees and the loan form is filled out.

It was great to get started and begin making music together this year!

**Senior Concert Band**

**Tuesday 7.40am**

**Ruby Johnson**

Senior band started this week. Students are to arrive at 7:50am for an 8:00am start. Rehearsals will finish at 8:45am this year. Students will receive music in their first rehearsal. Please bring your instrument, music folder, pencil and a drink bottle. If you know your student will be absent from band or a lesson please send me an email [rjohn479@eq.edu.au](mailto:rjohn479@eq.edu.au)

**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, 4) and senior (years 4, 5 6) choirs were held and being held during classroom music. We have had a lot of children apply and will refine our list in the next week.

Children selected will receive a note in the coming 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> break for Seniors and Juniors on Thursday at 2<sup>nd</sup> break. Rehearsals will start in week 3.** Before school rehearsals for Seniors will be published via the newsletter later in the term. This will most likely occur on Monday mornings or during a break.

**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 practice, organized for their





lessons with correct equipment and turning up on time, the music staff have developed 2 rewards.

**entry fees, upgrading accessories, equipment and instruments and Eisteddfod bus.**

## "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, practicing, improving skills, "WOW-ing" their teacher will receive stars towards their '75 star chart' in their classroom towards the end of 5 week party etc.

### 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***

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 with their shirts, navy blue skirts, skorts or shorts, white ankle CREW 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



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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*