



The Willows State School

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# *The Pitch*

Music News - Issue 2

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Wk 4/5 - 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

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WOW!! Well done to all our instrumentalists!!! Great reading of the timetable, being organised and getting to lessons on time this fortnight. Please keep reminding children to check the timetables in the morning and collecting children in their groups so that lessons can start promptly. This will allow children to get their full 30 minute lessons. If your child is absent, please notify your instrumental teacher so it can be recorded correctly. Lessons and rehearsals are always on unless specified on timetable or you've been notified by the teachers. It is sometimes hard to notify when instrumental teachers are absent due to illness or other, they do not get replaced like a classroom teacher, so if they are absent, lessons/rehearsals will not be on. A sign will be placed on the instrumental door and teachers and children notified. We thank you in advance for this understanding - sometimes we will only be notified in the morning of and may be possible to post on the school facebook page. There will be supervision at school if your child is there early.

If your child is involved in a school activity, away on excursion, needed in class for assessment, please contact your child's instrumental teacher so lessons can be accommodated for. If your child forgets their instrument for the day - it is still important that they turn up to the lesson so they are aware of what is happening and

what to do during their week of practice ready for the next lesson.

A reminder that if you find a fault or there is something wrong with the instrument, please return it so it can be looked at and repaired if needed. Any damage caused to the instrument through misuse or 'droppage' etc is at borrower's expense. Instrumental Folders have been distributed as of last week. There are still a couple of outstanding payments. Please advise when your child has paid so a folder can be given to them.

**Practice** is essential for progress. Your child will only succeed with a good practice regime being set in place from the beginning and your encouragement, support and praise will only enhance improvement. Persistence and setting short term goals is the pathway to success. If you feel you or your child are struggling, please come and see us so we can assist in making this 'life-long' learning experience fun.

Please find timetable at the bottom for when instrumental teachers, lessons and rehearsals are occurring.

**Go for Green - To assist  
with practise!**

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTISE**

When new pieces and scales are learnt in the lesson it is important to go over these new ideas often so we are familiar and comfortable with the new songs. This enables us to feel confident and relaxed in



the lessons as well and you will enjoy it a lot more! A few little things to help you.

- ❖ Keep your fingernails short!
- ❖ Organise your music bag the night before with everything you will need.
- ❖ Fill out your practise chart as soon as you have finished practising! (only count actual playing time please)
- ❖ Set a timer to help you practise. When the buzzer goes off that's your practise done!
- ❖ 60 min per week is the minimum amount to ensure progress each week.
- ❖ Set yourself a goal and try to achieve this goal. Happy playing and I look forward to the rest of term.

**More info at end of newsletter!**

### **Date Claimer**

<b>WHAT'S ON - TERM 1</b>	
<b>Week 4</b> Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February	String Lesson Changes due to swimming Carnival – Check Timetable
<b>Week 6</b> Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	No Percussion Lessons

**Strings- Carla Mulligan -**

**[cjmul1@eq.edu.au](mailto:cjmul1@eq.edu.au)**

**Wednesday 7.30 - 3**

**Thursday 11 - 3pm**

Hi Willows Strings! We are off to a wonderful start to the year. Well done to all students for being dedicated and developing good habits early. Most students are on time and continue to practice regularly.

This year we will be focusing more on SMART practice. This means targeting

specific techniques or music ideas that they want to achieve during their practice time. THEN the next step is to share this with family. Because, music is supposed to be shared!

### **String Orchestra & Junior Orchestra -**

**Carla Mulligan**

#### **Senior String Orchestra**

We are off to an incredible start to this year. Well done to ALL students attending rehearsal on time and playing with passion. I'm excited to see what we can achieve this year!

Parents, you can help them with orchestra by downloading or googling recordings of their orchestra music so they get to learn what the pieces are supposed to sound like! It will inspire them!

**Brass- Kelly Clarke-Flesser -**

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

**Monday 11 - 3,**

Over the past two lessons I been met with happy faces, smiles and a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement!

Just remember to "colour in" your minutes of practice on your Term 1 Practice chart whenever you do some home practice. At the end of each week a parent/guardian will have to sign this practice chart.

At the end of the term we will look at this chart and determine if we are putting enough consistent effort at home in order to learn our songs and progress on your instrument.



**Percussion- Ian Brunskill -**

**[ibrun2@eq.edu.au](mailto:ibrun2@eq.edu.au)**

**Friday 11 - 3pm**

Awesome to have such keen percussionists ready for lessons. Some students are still without equipment but the majority are eager and turning up prepared. Please email me if you require any assistance or help with requirements.

Well done on your great efforts so far! No Lessons in Week 6. We are looking for more beginner percussion students. If you are new to the school or would like to be part of the percussion group see the music teachers for further information.

**Woodwind - Ruby Johnson**

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

**Monday 9 - 11**

**Tuesday 7.30 - 3**

We have had a great start to the term. Our continuing students are back into their lessons, bands and practice routines and making some great progress! The senior band is already sounding amazing and we cannot wait to have our first performance on the full school parade on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March (week 6). We would love to see you all there!

The beginner students have made a great start to their musical journey and are so excited to be a part of the program! We are making some interesting sounds while we get used to our new instruments and will be making some great music in no time!

Everyone is progressing so well and the go for green chart is looking very green!

**Senior Concert Band**

**Tuesday 7.40am**

**Ruby Johnson**

A reminder that the senior concert band rehearses on Tuesday mornings starting at 7:50am. Please make sure your child is on time so we can make the most of our rehearsal time each week.

**Junior & Senior Choirs**

**Fiona Coleman**

Congratulations to the Senior Choir who performed at our investiture Ceremony last Friday. In under one week's worth of Rehearsals, you presented yourself well and sounded beautiful I'm looking forward to having regular rehearsals and working towards our next performance.

Auditions for our junior (Years 1,2,3, 4) were held this week. (Delayed due to lunchtime changes) We have had a lot of children apply and will refine our list in the next week.

Children selected for both senior and junior choir 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**  
**Senior Choir - Monday Morning and**  
**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> break**  
**Junior Choir on Thursday at 2<sup>nd</sup> break.**

**DON'T FORGET!!** Amadeus Singers are recruiting for new members. If you are interested in being part of a community choir - please see flyer attached below.

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

**~ ~ STARTS THIS WEEK!! ~ ~**  
**Are you working towards getting rewarded for your efforts?**

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.

**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**

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 are 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.

Musically Yours,

Fiona Coleman & Trevor Schimke

## "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.



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**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 ☹





## Community Info



"Townsville's Community  
Children's Choirs"

Youth  
Choirs

Are now recruiting for new members!!

All voice types welcome

### **"COME AND TRY SESSIONS"**

**Youth Choir - Year 7 - 22 years**

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.: 5:15pm - 6:45pm

**Senior Children's Choir - Years 3 - 6**

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

**Junior Children's Choir - Prep - Year 2**

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.: 4:30pm - 5:30pm

**Townsville Grammar School**

**1 Brazier Drive, Annandale**

Register: [www.amadeus-singers.com.au](http://www.amadeus-singers.com.au)

Contact: Anne (0426 610 291)

*"Music is worth teaching because it  
empowers children spectacularly." -  
Richard Gill*