



The Pitch

Music News – Issue 3

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There was an improvement to instrumentalists reading the timetable, being organised and getting to lessons on time this fortnight. Some teachers are still having to make phonecalls to classes. ☹ Please keep reminding children to check the timetables in the morning and collecting children in their groups so that lessons can start promptly.

We will be involved in **Choral Fanfare** this year. Fanfare is a statewide competition for Choral students from Queensland state schools only. It happens every 2nd year. Both our Junior and Senior Choirs will be participating. Please claim the date – **Friday 7th May (TBC)** in your diaries!! ☺ ***It is an expectation that every member of the choirs attend rehearsals. This is an online entry and recordings will be done at school.*** Notes will be sent home with more information in term 2.

It is essential that children are at rehearsals on time ready to start for choirs, orchestra's and band. The work effort has been fantastic – however some children are arriving late or not turning up. Children need to be at school by 7.40am to help set up and be seated by 7.50am to get a good 40 mins practise. School starts at 8.45am so children need to be packed up and ready to head to class by 8.40am.

It is an expectation that you are part of an ensemble and an apology or absence letter is required. Music Program Timetable Attached below!

A reminder for practise incase you missed it last newsletter. ☺

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!



BAND KARATE/ BAND NINJA

We have a new system to help students to achieve manageable practice and performance goals within their method book. "Band Karate" involves students aiming to play certain songs as a solo for the teacher and group. The overall goal is to practice regularly to help you play these songs and therefore move your name tile across the belt posters and collect the corresponding belt colours. We hope these smaller manageable performance goals will motivate students to practice at home and get excited about learning new pieces rather than being apprehensive!

At times the belt songs will correlate with assessment pieces, but students have been explicitly told that this is not always the case. First and foremost belt songs are a tool to help with practice and improving your playing skills in general and therefore students need to STILL PRACTICE the other songs set for homework by the teacher.

This year there is a new extension level called **Band Ninja**. Band Ninja represents level 3 of the IM curriculum and students who are starting Book 2 of their method book!!!

How are you tracking?



Date Claimer

WHAT'S ON - TERM 2	
Friday 7 th May (TBC)	Choral Fanfare – Both choirs recorded at school

Strings- Carla Mulligan -
cjmul1@eq.edu.au

Tuesday 12pm – 3pm

Thursday 7.50am – 3pm

The Term has continued to go well for all string students. Thank you for supporting your child's playing at home, and helping them bring their instruments to and from school. Almost every student is practicing regularly and coming to their lesson. This is what makes the The Willows String program so strong. They love to play music!

String Orchestra - Thursday - 7.50am
Carla Mulligan

Week 5 was our second week of String Orchestra rehearsing. The orchestra has two songs that they are currently working on. Thank you for making sure your children arrive on time. Today was a very smooth set up. We started on time and got to fit a lot of playing in. If we continue to operate this way, they will learn a lot this year.

Parents of students in Year 4 - it is often a big jump for students joining orchestra for the first time and reading their notes can be very tricky. If you are able to spend a few moments helping your child to read and memorise what the notes are that will help them a lot.



Brass- Kelly Clarke-Flesser -

kclar205@eq.edu.au

Monday 11 - 3,

Well done Brassies! We have made it to the halfway point in the term! I am seeing some wonderful examples of commitment and effort during lessons so far. Most students are undertaking regular practice at home are experiencing great success and development in their skills already! Let's keep this consistent level of effort going right up until the end of the term.

Now that the term is underway, the beginners will begin to track their playing development from week 6, through playing various pieces in their method book. The system used to track their effort and goals is called "Band Karate". Next week, beginner brass students will receive a sheet outlining pieces (playing goals) to work towards in amongst other important pieces in the book. The main purpose of Band Karate is to break down the book into smaller, achievable playing goals throughout the year. Students will experience success and (hopefully) a drive to get towards the next karate belt level! Once students reach a new coloured belt level, they receive something to attach to their instrument case highlighting their current playing skills achieved with the goal to eventually "collect" all the belts available.

Have a great week and keep up the practice everyone!

Percussion- Ian Brunskill -

ibrun2@eq.edu.au

Friday 11.00am - 3.00pm

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.

Percussion children received their contract of commitment forms again this week. Please ensure these are returned promptly.

Woodwind - Tina Greenfield

tgree255@eq.edu.au

Monday 7.50am - 3.00pm

We are well into the term with our music making in lessons. Everyone is practicing consistently and making great progress and I know they will do a great performance for their assessment later this term!

Senior Concert Band - Monday 7.40am

Tina Greenfield

The Band's enthusiasm is great at this time of the year. They sound amazing already and I cannot wait to see what else this ensemble can do throughout the year. Keep up the great practise and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Junior & Senior Choirs

Fiona Coleman

There has been a great start to choir this year with lots of enthusiastic singers. Changes to lunchtime breaks with no grass play and wet play will cancel our regular rehearsals. Fingers crossed the predicting weather doesn't intervene. ☺



Once names have been confirmed with regular attendance, 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. An electronic roll has been set up so children are recording their attendance. Children will be invited to Choral Fanfare and Eisteddfod and other performances based on their attendance and effort recorded in the roll.

Rehearsal times will be:

Senior Choir - Wednesday 2nd Break

Junior Choir - Thursday 1st Break

GO FOR GREEN - Recognition of Practice and Great Work

~ ~ STARTED WEEK 3!! ~ ~

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.

"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 ☹

GREEN DOT: I attended my lesson, practiced **AND** brought all of my equipment. I am doing my very best to be a better musician.

YELLOW DOT: I attended my lesson but I **DIDN'T** practice enough this week. I need to practice to be a better musician.

RED DOT: I attended my lesson but I didn't bring my instrument and/or book and/or folder. I need to work on my organization.

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



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

2021 MUSIC PROGRAM TIMETABLE

DAY/TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7.50am	SENIOR CONCERT BAND Tina Greenfield tgree255@eq.edu.au			SENIOR STRING ORCHESTRA Carla Mulligan cjm11@eq.edu.au	
9.00am	WOODWIND LESSONS Tina Greenfield tgree255@eq.edu.au			STRINGS LESSONS CONTINUING Carla Mulligan cjm11@eq.edu.au	
11.00am		BRASS LESSONS Kelly Clarke-Flessen kclar205@eq.edu.au	STRINGS LESSONS BEGINNERS Carla Mulligan cjm11@eq.edu.au	JUNIOR CHOIR Fiona Coleman Trevor Schimke	PERCUSSION LESSONS Ian Brunskill ibrun2@eq.edu.au
11.40am	WOODWIND LESSONS Tina Greenfield				
1.10pm	BEGINNER CONCERT BAND (Term 2)		SENIOR CHOIR Fiona Coleman Trevor Schimke		
1.55pm	WOODWIND LESSONS Tina Greenfield			STRINGS LESSONS CONTINUING Carla Mulligan	PERCUSSION LESSONS Ian Brunskill
2.55pm	tgree255@eq.edu.au				