



The Willows State School

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# The Pitch

## Music News - Issue 5

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Congratulations to the Senior Choir who performed at our school ANZAC service last week. The ceremony was well organised, whole school behaviour was commendable and the Choir children performed beautifully for their first official performance. They have worked so hard in this first week back and did an exceptional performance. 😊

This term will be very busy with lots happening in preparation for our next big performance including **Fanfare and Gala Night**. A "save the date" note went home in the last week of Term 1, to each individual child who is competing in this competition. Fanfare is a statewide competition for Instrumental students from Queensland state schools only. It happens every second year. Both our Junior and Senior Concert Bands and String Orchestra will be participating. Regional Festivals will take place on:

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at**  
**Kirwan SHS. PLEASE**  
**CLAIM THIS DATE!!!**

***It is an expectation that every member of these ensembles attends rehearsals and the performance.***

Permission notes will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Make sure you are attending all rehearsals so you are prepared and ready to showcase and perform at your best! 😊

The public holidays have interrupted our regular Concert Band rehearsals.

Rehearsals will now be on Friday in Week 2 and 3 so they are prepared for Fanfare.

**Junior Concert Band - 1.55 - 2.00pm**

**Senior Concert Band - 2.00pm - 2.55pm**

Please ensure your child has their instrument and music on Friday as well as their normal lesson days.

All Instrumental students are doing a fantastic job and we couldn't be more pleased with their efforts. A reminder that children are being assessed this term. The report is a progress of how they are going. Your child needs to understand their results and ask themselves if they have met their goals and what they need to do to improve to meet their next lot of challenges. Persistence, motivation and overcoming these hurdles makes us stronger and gives us the ability to achieve and feel confident about our accomplishments. Please ensure children are aware of their lesson times and putting in the extra effort to showcase to the instrumental teacher what they have learnt during Semester 1. Be aware of your expectations and what is required from you for success. Practising and preparing for your assessment will assist in great results. Good luck!! 😊

Term 2 timetables were emailed before the holidays. Your child's classroom teacher has received a copy of the Term 2 timetable as has your child. Please ensure you have a copy of the timetable viewable at home to help with these organisational



skills. There have been some minor changes with some groups.

I will start organising shirt sizes for members next week. Please get children to write their size up beside their name so we can allocate a music shirt for their performances this year.

### Date Claimer

WHAT'S ON - TERM 2	
<b>Week 2 &amp; 3</b> <b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b> <b>April &amp; 6<sup>th</sup></b> <b>May</b>	<b>Concert Bands</b>  Junior - 1.55 - 2.00pm Senior - 2.00pm - 2.55pm
<b>Week 5</b> <b>16 – 20<sup>th</sup></b> <b>May</b>	<b>NAPLAN</b> – Changes to lessons to accommodate children involved
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Saturday,</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> May @</b> <b>Kirwan SHS</b>	<b>Creative Generations –</b> <b>FANFARE - Heat</b> All senior/junior Band and Orchestra
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b> <b>June @</b> <b>Pimpac</b>	<b>Creative Generations -</b> <b>FANFARE Regional Finals</b> (Only if chosen from heats)
<b>Week 9</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Music Gala</b> – All Instrumental ensembles and Choir

the teacher and group. The overall goal is to practise 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 practise 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 PRACTISE** 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?**

**Strings** - Carla Mulligan

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

**Tuesday 9.30am-11.00am**

**Thursday 7.50am-3.00pm**



## **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

It was fantastic to see everyone in week one and start playing music together again. All students were enthusiastic and excited to learn new things! Get those practice routines up and running again for our Go for Green chart. Performing is a big part of playing, so if you can take the time to have 'home concerts' this will greatly



improve your child's confidence on their instrument.

### String Orchestra

**Carla Mulligan**

Orchestra rehearsals will continue as normal from Week 2 - 10, 7:45am in the music room. This music is supposed to be a little challenging for the students and they will gradually build their confidence of playing in the orchestra week by week. Please encourage them as much as you can in this which will help prepare for Fanfare and better rehearsals.

### Brass - Kelly Clarke-Flessner

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

**Tuesday 11.00am-3.00pm**

I hope you have had a relaxing Easter break and are now ready to get back into making some music in Term 2. The Term 2 Brass timetable has been emailed to all the Grade 4, 5, 6 teachers and each student has been given a copy to keep. If they didn't collect one during their Week 1 lesson, there are plenty of spares in the Instrument music practice room pinned to the Brass portion of the pinboard. There is a bright green label saying "Spare Brass Timetables" (near the entry door).

This term has some exciting performance opportunities for the Willows music community, including Fanfare and our first Music Gala night in which all our music ensembles will perform. Students are expected to be prepared for weekly lessons and rehearsals and ensure they are regularly practising their pieces.

### Woodwind - Tina Greenfield

[tgree255@eq.edu.au](mailto:tgree255@eq.edu.au)

**Monday 9.00am-3.00pm**

Hi Woodwind, Welcome back to Term 2! We haven't had a great start back to term with the Monday Public Holidays. Please keep practising your songs in your book and reading music ready for lessons which go back to normal in Week 4. This term you will continue working through the curriculum level and developing your skills. This can only be achieved through regular practice. A new 'Go for Green' chart has started and I hope we can make this even more green this term! Don't forget, if you didn't do your assessment last term, you have to have it ready for first lesson in Week 4.

### Junior / Senior Concert Band

**Monday 7.40am**

I hope you had a chance to practise your pieces and listen to the recordings over the holidays. Individual practise = better rehearsals as we prepare for Fanfare. Please don't forget your instruments **FRIDAY WEEK 2 AND 3** - so we can rehearse both bands in the music room. Please see date claimer for times.

### Junior Concert Band

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Break 1.10pm**

As above

### Percussion - Ian Brunskill

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

**Friday 11.00am-3.00pm**

I'm looking forward to having a very successful term with all the percussionists. Thanks for those who were able to



organise their requirements over the holidays. Some beginners are still unprepared or understanding what is going on. Please ensure you are practising daily, checking timetables and being prepared with the right gear for your lessons.

### Whole School Choir

Fiona Coleman

A Choir Roll has now been confirmed and handed to admin. If you have not returned the commitment note, another note will be sent home to return ASAP requesting the \$55 music levy payment if not already in the instrumental program. 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 Eisteddfod and Gala Performances based on their attendance and effort recorded in the roll.

#### Rehearsal times are:

Tuesday and Thursday - 1<sup>st</sup> Break

### Folk Group

Fiona Coleman

A small group of Year 5 & 6 students have approached me about doing some folk singing. We have been rehearsing Wednesday at second break. They are starting to sound fantastic already. If your child would like to be part of this group - please get them to come and see me.

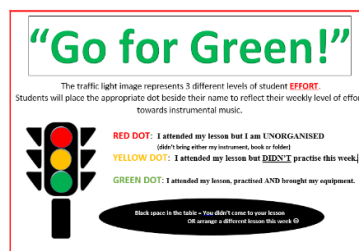
## Go for Green

### THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICE

When new pieces and scales are learned 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 practice chart as soon as you have finished practising! (only count actual playing time please).
- ❖ Set a timer to help you practice. When the buzzer goes off that's your practice done!
- ❖ 60min 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.



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

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, are organised for their lessons with correct equipment and are turning up on time, the music staff have developed two rewards.

**GREEN DOT:** I attended my lesson, practised 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 practise enough this week. I need to practise 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 organisation.

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

Musically Yours,

Fiona Coleman

Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education. ~ *Plato*