



The Pitch

Music News - Issue 1

Fiona Coleman - fcole7@eq.edu.au

Welcome to the first issue of 'The Pitch' for 2023, 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 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. Please ensure we have your current email address. You should be receiving emails from your Instrumental teacher. If you are not receiving emails, please let your teacher know. Teacher emails are listed below. We will also use The Willows State School and P&C Facebook pages to remind families of upcoming events. Please like and keep informed for last minute changes.

Our Performing Arts Centre is located right in the middle of the school. 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.

Week 2/3 - 30 Jan-10 Feb, 2023

All children by now have met their Instrumental teacher in **Week 1** and are getting prepared for their first lesson starting in **Week 2 & 3**. Children should

know what day their lessons are on and have a timetable highlighted with times for their lessons. Every child will receive a timetable this week. Timetables are 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 organised and forming a routine. All instrumental timetables are a weekly rotation to avoid your child missing out on the same classroom lesson weekly. Children borrowing instruments will receive their instrument during their first lesson, as long as the loan agreement forms and payment has been made. 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. You do not need to purchase a new folder if you already have one. If your child would like to practise at break time they are welcome to come to the music room to do so. Thank you for your prompt return of signed contracts, payments and loan agreement forms.

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 organised for their lesson will help create responsibility and routine. There will be times during this first term and early second 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 practise 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. The **tutor book must be purchased** so your child can progress and have success.

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 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/curriculum/music>

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	
Week 2/3	LESSONS/ENSEMBLES START Monday – Band & Woodwind Tuesday – Strings (Continuing)



Wednesday – Brass (PM)
Thursday – Percussion (PM)
Friday – Strings (Beginner)

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

Tuesday 7.50am – 3.00pm
Friday 9.00am – 11.00pm

Welcome to 2023! I'm looking forward to seeing all students this year to start learning more music together again!

The STRING STUDENT INFORMATION MEETING went well with most children turning up to get further information and their timetables for lessons this week.

String orchestra and lessons will start in Week 3.

- Beginner String students (Grade 3) will have their lessons on Friday mornings 9.00am – 11.00am.
- Continuing String students (Grade 4-6) will have Orchestra and lessons on Tuesday's.
- Strings Orchestra is for all Year 4-6 continuing String students. Rehearsals are before school in the Music room **7:45am-8:30am**. This ensemble is part of their instrumental music learning and is a requirement for being in the Instrumental Music Program at The Willows State School.

String Orchestra & Junior Orchestra –
 Carla Mulligan

As above

Brass – Kelly Clarke-Flesser -
kclar205@eq.edu.au

Wednesday 11.00am – 3.00pm

Welcome to 2023! Both Ms Clarke and Ms Greenfield met all the Beginner Brass and Woodwind students and to reconnect with the continuing students in Grades 5 and 6 last week!

In this meeting we discussed:

- Lesson days for Woodwind and Brass students
- Lessons commence in Week 2
- Discuss general goals and expectations with home practice
- Remind students about band karate and the addition of the next level up - BAND NINJA! (Book 2)
- The commencement of Senior Concert Band rehearsals on Monday 13th Feb.

Percussion – Ian Brunskill -
ibrun2@eq.edu.au

Thursday 11.00am – 3.00pm

Lessons start Thursday in Week 2. It was lovely to meet the new students for this year on Friday last week. It's important everyone is prepared for lessons. If you forgot your gear – ensure you are organised for your next lesson. Practice is essential so we can keep moving forward and making quality progress. ☺ Look forward to a wonderful year with you all.

Woodwind – Tina Greenfield
tgree255@eq.edu.au

Monday 9.00am – 3.00pm



As Above

Senior Concert Band Tuesday 7.40am

Senior Band starts in Week 3 - Monday 13th February. Students are to arrive at 7:40am for a 7.50am 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

tgree255@eq.edu.au. Please enter school through the OSHC gate as this is the only access before 8.00am. Please be assured that staff will be onsite for care of your child.

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 will be held this week.

Children selected will receive a note in the coming week with a contract of commitment and request to pay \$55 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. A 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. **Rehearsal times will be forwarded in next newsletter.**

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



GO FOR GREEN - Recognition of Practice and Great Work

~ ~ **STARTS 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 practise, and are organized 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 organization.

The second award works in with our school PBL where students doing an outstanding



The Willows State School

 (07) 4799 1333

 (07) 4723 4665

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.

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