

# Turrumurra Public School Band Information

2017



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**This sheet contains information about our school band that will help you to understand our programme. Please take the time to read it and feel free to ask any questions you may have.**

The band programme is an **extra-curricular activity funded by fees**, paid yearly. Fees are kept as low as possible, and pay the Band Director for rehearsal and performance time, and other expenses such as purchasing new music and entry into competitions and festivals. Instrument hire fees go towards repairing and replacing instruments.

## The Benefits

As a result of the programme, your children will learn to play a musical instrument to a high standard. They will have a greater appreciation of music of different styles and of what is involved in a musical presentation. They will never be merely spectators. If they choose to continue their involvement, they will be able to form immediate associations with people anywhere in the world.

As band members, your children will become an integral part of a social group brought together to pursue a worthwhile, common aim, the success of which requires **every** member to do their personal best.

They will develop positive friendships and associations.

They will develop the self-discipline and commitment necessary to succeed in all other areas of endeavour. Statistics show that children who participate in similar programmes tend to succeed in other areas of the curriculum. The skills they learn as part of the programme are applicable to all other areas. The self-esteem they gain from success gives them confidence to improve other areas of study.

## What the Band Will Provide

**Professional Direction** – Experience has shown that school bands are much more likely to succeed where professional and experienced direction is provided. We are extremely fortunate to have the services of Tim Rowland in this capacity. We also have a group of excellent tutors, for private lessons, most of whom give lessons within the school grounds.

**An Instrument** – The Band will provide an instrument for hire for the first year, which your child is expected to treat with due care. At the end of the year parents are expected to provide an instrument except in the case of the more expensive instruments such as the Tuba, Euphonium & French Horn. Those allocated Tenor Saxophone must provide their own after two years.

**Music** – Junior Band members begin with a band folder for which they are charged. All band music is provided. Lost practice copies will incur a replacement fee of 50c per page.

## How the Instrument Is Selected

In choosing the instruments for the children, we are aiming to ensure two things:

- a) the children will have an instrument with which they are happy, and on which they are likely to succeed
- b) the band has a balanced representation from all instrument groups.

The children are asked to express 3 preferences. Alto & Tenor Saxophone are NOT regarded as separate choices. Percussion includes *all* percussion instruments, including glockenspiel – not just drum kit. Percussion players will not necessarily perform on drum kit in concerts or competitions.

Guidance will be provided when choosing instruments. Although every effort will be made to oblige first preferences, it may be necessary to move to second or even third choices. All children must be prepared to accept the instrument that is allocated if it is one of their three preferences. It is generally not possible to change instruments after the first year - there are limited instruments to offer each year and this will affect the balance of the bands in years to come. Also, as the child has to repeat Junior Band, they often become bored and don't continue.

## TPS Bands

There are four main Concert Bands at TPS –

- Junior (made up of new starters - predominantly Year 3)
- Intermediate (Year 4)
- Senior (Year 5)
- Performance (Year 6)

There is also a Jazz/Stage Band, made up of Year 5 and 6 students.

## The Responsibilities

**Attending Rehearsals** – Regular rehearsals are scheduled for each band. **All** band members are expected to attend regularly and arrive punctually.

Initially the Junior Band is divided into 2 groups, woodwind and brass, with each group having 1 rehearsal per week. At Band Camp these two groups come together and from then on will rehearse twice a week. The other Concert Bands have 2 rehearsals throughout the year. The Jazz Band will be entered by audition or invitation after at least two years of band membership. Students must belong to a Concert Band to be able to join the jazz band, with the exception of very experienced piano/keyboard players.

Each rehearsal is approximately 1 hour. Morning rehearsals are 7:50am until 8:50am, and afternoon rehearsals are 3:15pm until 4:15pm.

Junior Band times are Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon.

**Tuition** – It is a requirement of band membership that band members have weekly tuition throughout their period with the Band. Band members only continue to progress at the same level as their peers with competent tuition. The Band Director generally **does not** have time to attend to individual difficulties during rehearsals.

The committee will provide a list of reputable tutors, many of whom conduct tutorials at the school.

Children must sit and wait quietly for their lessons and for not more than 10 minutes.

If you prefer to use someone not on the Recommended Tutor List the TPS Band committee insists that you address the following criteria:

- It is essential that the tutor plays the instrument in a competent manner.
- Either the tutor has either received formal music teaching qualifications or has equivalent playing and/or teaching experience.
- The tutor is of an appropriate age to teach primary school children. We would suggest having completed high school.

**Performances** – As much notice as possible will be given for all Band performances. All members are expected to attend each performance. If non-attendance is unavoidable the Band Director **must** be notified *by e-mail* as soon as possible, as well as the band manager for the child's band. The Band Director has the discretion to exclude children from performances because of 1) unacceptable behaviour, 2) inability to play performance pieces at an acceptable standard because of poor rehearsal attendance or lack of practice, or 3) inappropriate dress for a public performance. The Junior Band has in past years played at band festivals, competitions, nursing homes and school assemblies, as well as the family concert at the conclusion of the annual Band Camp.

**Instrument Care** – tutors should provide information on instrument care. If in doubt, ask for help. Please don't try to fix instruments yourself. Any repairs undertaken without approval of the band committee are at the expense of the hirer.

**Behaviour** – As with any other school activity, all Band Members are expected to behave in a co-operative and sensible way. Continuing membership depends on children maintaining a satisfactory standard of behaviour at all times. Parents helping with Band activities are to be accorded the same authority and respect as teachers.

**Practice** - Each child will be required to complete a practice diary, to be completed each week by a parent/guardian, this will be checked by Mr Rowland. For Junior Band, a minimum of 15-20 minutes practice should be done each day, including both band and tutorial pieces. Children who fail to do sufficient practice will not be able to continue in the Band Programme. The format of the practice diary will be announced at the beginning of the year.

**Uniform** – To be worn when requested (mostly for performances outside school)

Both boys and girls:

- Long Black Pants
- Yellow Band Shirt
- **Black** socks
- Polished Black Shoes
- Students with long hair should tie it back during performances, yellow ribbons will be put in by band managers at the event and then given back.
- It is important that the students take pride in their appearance as this will be reflected in the way they perform as a band.

**Fees** – Accounts are sent in term 2, to be paid in full by the end of May (to be eligible for the 5% discount), or to be paid in two instalments in May and August. Payment for Band Camp is required in term 1. One month is given as period for payment. Please pay accounts promptly to minimise the workload of our treasurer.

**Failure to pay fees by the due date will result in the child/children being asked to leave the band, unless previous arrangements have been made.**

Concert Band Fee	\$260/year – \$10 discount if paid in full by the end of May.
Stage/Jazz Band Fee	\$100/year
Instrument Hire Fee	\$200/year
Percussion Usage Fee	\$40/year (not for Junior Band – Instrument Hire Fee applies instead)
Band Folder	\$10 (Junior Band Only)
Band Camp	\$200+

Families with more than one child in the Band Programme receive a rebate of \$10 per child per semester on Band Fees.

Fee Assistance – families experiencing financial difficulties may apply for a one-off exemption of one child's fees for one semester. Applications for assistance are to be made through the band committee.

Families can also pay in instalments if arranged with the treasurer.

**Each family pays their tutor separately. Individual prices vary but generally range from \$30 - \$40 per lesson (half an hour).** The children may also need a tutorial book and other music for use in their private lessons. Some tutors are required to collect GST.

**Reporting** – Behaviour and performance in rehearsals are monitored and recorded as necessary, and this information is emailed to parents/carers, even weekly where appropriate. The Band Director gives a report on each Band at every Band Committee meeting.

**Committee** – The Band Program runs as successfully as it does due to the work done by the committee, if you can assist in any way it will be most appreciated. Our AGM is held each year late in term 4. Notification will be in the School newsletter. Band information is distributed to parents predominantly by email, as well as individual notes or via the School newsletter.

Tim Rowland has limited time before and after band rehearsals and must be contacted by e-mail at

[tpsbands@outlook.com](mailto:tpsbands@outlook.com)

# Why We Teach Music

Music is scientific. It is precise and demands accurate acoustics.

A conductor's score is a complex chart that indicates frequency, intensity, volume, melody and harmony, all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical. It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions that must be calculated, interpreted and applied instantaneously.

Music is a foreign language. Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French and notation is a highly developed type of shorthand based on symbols that represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language known.

Music is history. It reflects the environment and times of its creation, including the cultural and social values.

Music is physical education. It requires exceptional co-ordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks and facial muscles. It also takes extraordinary control of the diaphragm, which in turn uses the back, stomach and chest muscles.

Music is philosophy. It demands research and develops insight and perspective.

Music is art. It allows a human being to take dry, boring and often difficult techniques and use them to create emotion.

We do not teach music because we expect you to major in music or become a professional musician.

We teach music so you will recognise beauty.

We teach music so you will have more compassion.

We teach music so you will be the best you can be.

# Turrumurra Public School Band Camp 2017



An integral part of being in the TPS Band is the annual **Band Camp**. It is probably the most beneficial 2½ days in your child's band experience each year, and should **not** be considered optional. The camp is an opportunity for all bands to work together for an extended period of time and receive "on the spot" tutorials for each instrument. The children also have opportunities to engage in recreational activities in between playing sessions.

A parent roster provides supervision, and each family is expected to assist in some way. It is at Band Camp that Junior Band plays together for the first time, and the Sunday afternoon concert is one of their proudest moments.

**The camp will be held at Crusaders Camp Galston, on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March. Please put these dates in your diary now.**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March: 1:30pm – 5:30pm at school (sleep at home)**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March (8am) – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March (3pm) at Crusaders Galston**

This provides plenty of time to notify sporting teams or other commitments of your child's absence over the three day period.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact **[tpsbands@outlook.com](mailto:tpsbands@outlook.com)**