

Cammeray Public School Band Handbook 2010

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Introduction

Welcome to the Cammeray Public School Band Program. This booklet provides important information about the school band program for you and your child. In particular it provides an overview of:

- how the school band program works;
- the expectations of band membership;
- your parental role in the program; and
- the expected costs for band membership, instruments and tuition.

Our Aims

The Cammeray Band program aims to provide an opportunity for as many children as possible to enjoy and achieve in music, to create team spirit and positive self esteem, to perform music at a high level of musicianship and to incorporate pride in Cammeray Public School.

Our Objectives

The main objectives are to:

- encourage the participation of as many children as possible;
- enable children to enjoy music **and** play music for their own and other peoples' enjoyment;
- teach children to play music as a soloist and in an ensemble and encourage team spirit;
- provide many performance experiences, both competitive and community, building confidence and self esteem;
- introduce and develop an appreciation for a wide variety of concert band music.

Organisation of the Band Activities

Music Committee

The Band Program at Cammeray Public School is run by a parent Music Committee in conjunction with the Band Program Director. There are school staff representatives on the Committee.

Parents are needed and welcome to join the committee at any time and we would love to have your input. The AGM is held at the end of the year and further committee meetings are held each term as advertised in the Cammeray newsletter.

Band Program Director

The Music Committee currently employs two Musical Directors. Tara Fermor BCA, Grad Dip Ed, for Junior and Concert Band, and Matthew Browne, Bach Music, Bach Educ for Intermediate Band.

Enquiries at school should be directed to the Principal.

Parent Involvement

The Band Program can only be successful if **ALL** parents contribute and are involved. Each band has a parent roster for rehearsals and all parents are included on the roster to help supervise. This may end up being only once or twice a year, but it is extremely important to have a parent supervisor at rehearsals to assist the Band Director.

A parent roster is also drawn up for Band Camp, with all families expected to sign up for one slot over the course of the weekend.

During the year, parents are asked to help with fundraising and with transporting students and instruments to and supervising them at other band performances (eg. festivals, competitions, etc).

Absences

It is the parent's responsibility to advise the Musical Director of any planned or unplanned absences from band rehearsals, lessons (with that Director or the relevant tutor), competitions, festivals and other performances by telephone or text in good time wherever possible. This is a courtesy to the Musical Director and to the other band members, so arrangements can be made to compensate for the absence.

Fundraising and Resources

To keep band fees to a minimum and to help cover the ongoing costs of running the Band Program fundraising activities are held regularly, usually once a term. Your support of these activities is essential for their success.

The Band Program

Junior Band

All new band members join the Junior Band. The Junior Band is the ideal opportunity for children to become confident with their new instruments in an environment which is supportive and fun. This band is split into two groups for rehearsals and may be required to have some rehearsals as a combined group leading up to performances.

New band members remain in the Junior Band for a year and progress the following year to either the Intermediate or, in some special cases, Concert Band.

Intermediate Band

Most 2009 Junior Band members will progress to the Intermediate Band in 2010. This band builds on the skills learned in Junior Band.

Concert Band

This band consists of members of the 2009 Concert Band, children moving up from the Intermediate Band and, sometimes, those capable enough from Junior Band. Children join the Concert Band via an audition process which will take place early in Term 1, 2010. It is envisaged that this band will develop a broader repertoire of concert pieces with increased degree of difficulty and complexity.

Concert Band Tour

The Concert Band aims to tour somewhere each year. In the past, these tours have taken the band to such destinations as the Upper Hunter Valley, Wollongong, the Central Coast, Bathurst and in 2009, Mudgee and Gulgong. The cost of the tour varies depending on the destination. We try to keep costs to a minimum, and may hold additional fundraising activities to subsidise the cost of the tour. In 2009 the cost of the tour was \$235.

Rehearsal Times

	MORNINGS (7.45 – 9.15am)	LUNCH TIME (1.00 – 2.00pm)	
Junior Band 1	Wednesday	Monday	(Tara Fermor)
Junior Band 2	Tuesday	Thursday	(Tara Fermor)
Intermediate Band	Thursday	Tuesday	(Matthew Browne)
Concert Band	Friday	Wednesday	(Tara Fermor)

Band Camp

Band Camp is a time of great musical growth and promotes the teamwork which is so important for the bands. Tutors attend the camp to provide intensive tuition. This is combined with band rehearsals and a bit of fun/social time thrown in. It is lots of fun and a highlight of the year for the children.

Band Camp is COMPULSORY. This means attending the camp for the entire weekend and cancelling weekend sport and other activities.

From 2010 Band Camp will be split into two camps, to cater for the different needs of the different bands.

Junior Band Camp

As Junior Band children are in the early stages of becoming familiar with their own instrument, they will attend a two-day non-residential Band Camp in Term 2. This will include tutorials with other students learning the same instrument, as well as practice with the whole band. The camp will conclude with a concert for parents on the Sunday afternoon. All Junior Band children are required to attend.

Concert and Intermediate Band Camp

Concert Band and Intermediate Band children will attend a weekend residential Band Camp at Elanora Conference Centre. The camp takes place from late afternoon on Friday and concludes with a concert for parents on the Sunday afternoon. All Concert and Intermediate Band children are required to attend.

In 2010, Concert and Intermediate Band Camp will be held in Term 1, from the 26th to the 28th of March 2010.

Competitions, Festivals, Concerts and other Performances

Throughout the year all bands compete and perform at various events around Sydney. When we register for these events, it is expected that all band members will do their best to participate. Often these events are held over the weekend – on either day – and they are often held at other schools, universities and other public venues. When the events are held over the weekend, parents are responsible for their child's transport to and from the event and their supervision for the duration of the event. At no time should the child be left at the event with no prior arrangements made for their care. In this case, the band co-ordinator should be informed well in advance of any care arrangements and relevant telephone numbers advised.

Sometimes the timings for these events can be fluid and it is not always known at what time they will end. We encourage the children to stay and watch other bands and in particular the other Cammeray bands should they be attending the same event.

It is expected that the band competitions/festivals be given priority over regular weekend sports on these occasions. Any absences should be discussed with the Musical Director well prior to the event so the band can be rebalanced by the Musical Director in advance.

Music Exams

In your second year of band involvement, your child's tutor may discuss the option of taking an Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) examination in your child's chosen instruments. These exams are optional and full requirements and costs will be advised by your tutor.

How to Join the Band

Membership of the band is open to all students currently in Years 2-5 (2009). Before applying for a place in the band program, parents and children should be aware of their responsibilities as part of the band program. An application form must be completed and returned to the band box in the hallway near the school office. Please read this handbook **carefully** and keep it for future reference whilst your child remains in the program.

Commitment

Please note that your application to join the band is a sign of your commitment that will last the year – and hopefully beyond!

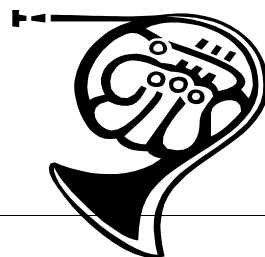
Choosing an Instrument

All year 2 students will be assessed for their instrument suitability. This assessment is performed by Tara Fermor and is based on the student's physical size, mouth formation (teeth/lips etc) and personality.

In your application to join the band program we ask your child to nominate 3 preferred instruments based on their assessment. As the overall aim is to develop a balanced band and sound, it is unlikely that all players will be offered their first preference of instrument.

Whilst we try to accommodate student preferences, some students have traits or attributes better suited to certain instruments. Selecting a suitable instrument will, in the long term, provide for more satisfying musical development.

Naturally some instruments are more popular than others so we encourage you and your child to:



- register your child's interest early;
- talk to current band members playing the selected instruments;
- consider and discuss a range of choices of instruments with your child; and
- nominate a selection of preferred instruments.

Woodwind

This group of instruments includes the flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone and tenor saxophone. Flutes and clarinets are **not** available for hire from the band program. There are a number of saxophones (alto and tenor) and two bass clarinets available for hire; see below under "Hiring an instrument" for details.

Brass

This group of instruments includes the trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba and French horn. There are a number of these instruments available for hire from the band program; see below under "Hiring an instrument" for details.

Electronic

This group includes bass guitar and keyboard. Keyboard players will use the band program's keyboard for band practice, tutorials and band performances. For this facility they are charged an annual usage fee. We have two bass guitars available for hire from the band program; see below under "Hiring an instrument" for details.

Percussion

Percussion instruments include drums, timpani, glockenspiel, xylophone and a variety of other instruments. The band program's percussion instruments are used for band practice and performances; for tutorials the students use the electronic kit in the tutor room. All percussionists are charged an annual usage fee to help us cover the cost of keeping these instruments in sound working order.

Percussionists will need to purchase a percussion kit which will include a practice pad, drum sticks, a glockenspiel and mallets for home use. The cost is approximately \$200.

It is desirable that percussionists, particularly drum kit players, have their own drum kit by the time they have developed their playing to Concert Band level.

Band Fees and Costs

The major costs involved in the band program are:

1. Band Fees – these will be charged twice yearly on a semester basis in Term 1 and Term 3.

2. Band Camp Fee – This will be included in the Term 1 Invoice.
3. Weekly Lessons with a Music Tutor (each student will have an arrangement in regard to fee payment made directly with their tutor).
4. Instrument Purchase, Hire or Usage Fees.
5. Smart black performance clothes – used for all performances outside of school. For consistency the Committee is looking to source black polo shirts, which will be available for purchase next year.
6. Concert Band tour (cost will depend on destination and varies each year).

Please note that fees may vary from year to year. We will aim to advise the coming year's fees at the end of each year. The success of any fundraising ventures will ensure we keep fees as low as possible.

1. Band Fees

Band expenses include such things as: fees for the Musical Directors, expenses incurred in buying and photocopying music, purchasing band books and folders, entry fees for competitions, transportation to performances held during the school day and replacing equipment.

Band fees are expected to be approximately \$80.00 per term in 2010.

2. Band Camp Fees

Band Camp fees cover the cost of accommodation (where camp is residential), meals, conductors, tutors and other incidental costs of running the camp.

In 2010, Junior Band Camp fees will be approximately \$100. Concert and Intermediate Band Camp fees will be approximately \$200.

3. Weekly Lessons

Individual lessons are an integral part of the Band Program and all children are required to have a 30-minute weekly lesson for their instrument. There are two ways you can do this.

Lessons at School

The Music Committee has developed an extremely successful tutorial program where talented, professional teachers provide quality lessons at school both during and after school hours for all instruments (except keyboard – children selected for keyboard are generally piano students who continue their own private lessons).

In 2010, lessons at school will be \$30 per half hour weekly lesson, based on a full term commitment. Your child's tutor is contracted by you for the term, not on a week-to-week basis and you will generally be invoiced in week 2 of each term. (Some tutors may charge GST on top of the \$30 flat rate, depending on their working arrangements.) Lessons during school hours will only be available to children who are part of the band program.

All students participating in our tutorial program will receive a contract from their tutor at the beginning of the year, providing you with further details.

Arranging your own Tutor

Parents may arrange to have lessons with a private tutor.

4. Instrument Purchase, Hire or Usage Fees

Purchase

Purchasing your own instrument does lead to a greater commitment to the instrument and the band. Good quality instruments are a vital investment and hold their value over many years.

Good second hand instruments can be purchased through the Trading Post or in music shops. For second hand purchases we recommend that you have the instrument checked out by a qualified musician before purchase. Below are some useful contacts for the purchase of new and second hand instruments.

Sax and Woodwind, 3/155 Parramatta Rd, Camperdown, Ph: 9557 4588.

Musicorp (also known as Flute Fidelity), 47 Hume Street Crows Nest, Ph: 9438 1060.

In Tune Music, 81 Alexander Street Crows Nest, Ph: 9439 1143 (Repairs, second-hand instruments)

Drum City, 65 Penshurst St, Willoughby, Ph: 9967 3777 (John Ryan).

Hiring an instrument

You may wish to start by hiring an instrument. Most of the contacts above have instrument hire arrangements available, which can include rental/purchase options.

The band program has a small but growing number of instruments for hire, which will generally be offered to junior band members (on a ballot basis). These are rented out at a lower rate than commercially hired instruments and are generally rented for one year only (subject to demand).

Instruments for hire (or use) currently owned by the Music Committee

Tier 1 Instruments	Tier 2 Instruments	Tier 3 Instruments	Usage Only
2 x Bass Guitar + Amp	4 x Alto Saxophone	2 x Bass Clarinet	1 x Keyboard
5 x Trombone	4 x Tenor Saxophone	1 x Baritone Saxophone	1 x Glockenspiel
6 x Trumpet	2 x Euphonium	1 x Tuba	1 x Drum Kit
	1 x French Horn		2 x Timpani
	1 x Piccolo		1 x Xylophone
			2 x Amplifier

Tier 1, 2 and 3 instruments may be hired out to band members and taken home for practice and tuition. **Usage only** instruments generally remain at school for use during band practice and concerts.

Fees for Tier 1, 2 and 3 Instruments

Parents hiring an instrument from the band program are asked to an indemnity form at the start of the school year and pay a **\$150 bond** before the instrument is given to the student.

All instruments are serviced at the end of the year in preparation for rental to incoming band students. To cover the cost of servicing instruments, all parents hiring an instrument will be charged a \$120 Assuming the bond is not required to cover any of the conditions on



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indemnity form, the **\$120 servicing fee** will be covered by the bond, with the remaining \$30 returned to parents upon return of the instrument.

Tier 1 instruments are currently **\$50.00 per term** plus a servicing fee (see above).

Tier 2 instruments are currently **\$65.00 per term** plus a servicing fee (see above).

Tier 3 instruments are currently **\$80.00 per term** plus a servicing fee (see above).

The hire of these instruments is for one full year and not part of a year. Parents need to commit to one year's hire.

After one year of hiring an instrument from the band program, you will generally need to hire or purchase elsewhere to make instruments available to the new Junior Band children. Should there be insufficient demand from the incoming Junior Band, instruments may be available for hire to Intermediate or Concert Band members.

Fees for Usage Only Instruments

All percussionists and keyboard players are charged a usage fee of **per term** to help us cover the cost of keeping these instruments amplifiers in sound working order, and replacing them when required.



\$15
and

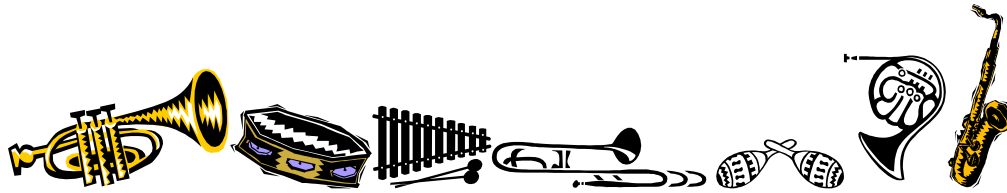
Payment of Fees

Band members receive an invoice from the Music Committee twice year to cover Band fees, Band Camp and Instrument Hire/Usage (for those families hiring an instrument from the band program). invoices are sent out in Term 1 and Term 3. Late fees will be imposed on payments outstanding for more than 60 days.

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fees
Fee

Tutorial Fees are invoiced by each tutor and are paid directly to tutors, and not to the school or music committee. For 2010, fees are set at \$30 per lesson (plus GST where applicable) and will generally be invoiced in week 2 of each Term.

All our tutors are qualified, professional musicians. Tara Fermor is the co-ordinator for the 2010 Tutorial Program. **All enquiries in regard to lessons are to be made directly to Tara Fermor (0419 233 134).**



Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child be offered a place in the band?

The school band program is a major part of Cammeray Public School's music activities. All interested children will be offered a place in the band program.

Letters of offer will be sent to all applicants before the end of term.

What should I expect from my child and their music lessons?

Your child should learn the skills and techniques required to play their selected instrument. This will include the ability to read and play music (not to be confused with playing by ear).

Your child should enjoy their music lessons and enjoy playing their chosen instrument. Naturally the level of enjoyment and satisfaction each child gains depends to a certain extent on their commitment to a regular practice routine.

How much practice is required at home?

Initially small amounts of regular practice are necessary (10-15 minutes at least five times per week). This will gradually expand to longer periods as your child improves, but the frequency of practice should be encouraged from day 1. Practice needs to become a GOOD HABIT.....this will only happen through repetition, so help your child to *learn* how to practice.

A regular practice routine ensures that your child will steadily improve in their playing. Don't expect miracles overnight and give lots of praise if it has been a good practice session.

Always check the homework requirements and notes in your child's notebook. This notebook can also be used as a way to communicate with the tutor. All tutors will use these notebooks.

How much Band practice is involved at school?

Each band has two band rehearsals a week, an early morning rehearsal before school and a lunchtime rehearsal.

Whilst the band work will initially be fairly easy, students should never underestimate the little things they will be learning - accurate counting, listening to the band as a whole and watching the conductor.

Band skills are developed alongside the learning of an instrument and are imperative to the development of the band as a team. Attendance at rehearsal is compulsory. If you do miss a rehearsal, you must ring or text the Musical Director or provide a note the following rehearsal.

Are the instruments insured?

All musical instruments owned by the band program are covered by the P&C insurance policy against theft, fire, malicious or accidental damage.

Can my child leave the program if they don't like it?

Children entering the band program need to understand they are making a commitment to themselves and the school band. It takes 8-10 months to start getting a grasp on a musical instrument. **The commitment to the band is for a minimum of ONE YEAR. The student must learn, through your support, to fulfil their commitment.** They may review this after the completed year.

If your child is unhappy with their musical development or their role in the band please discuss the matter with the Musical Director and your child's tutor, as the problem may be easily solved.

In the exceptional case where a child has to withdraw from the band program mid-semester, full semester band fees will be charged.

We ask that if children do leave the program, parents inform all parties in writing including the Musical Director, the Music Committee, and the child's tutor. **The tutor must be given a minimum of one month's notice and the student must complete the Term in question.**

