

## **Introduction**

Welcome to 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, engendering a team spirit, 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 the 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 beginning 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 a year, but it is extremely important to have a parent supervisor at rehearsals to assist the Band Director. Parents are also asked to help with fundraising and with band performances.

### **Fund Raising and Resources**

To maintain band fees to a minimum and to cover the ongoing costs of running the Band Program, fundraising activities are essential. Regular fund raising activities will be required to fund the future band program.

## **The Band Program**

There will be three levels of bands at Cammeray in 2009 with the introduction of a 4<sup>th</sup> band in 2010. (Beginner Band, Junior Band, Intermediate and Concert Bands)

### **Concert Band**

This band will consist of the current members of the Concert Band and children moving up from the Intermediate Band and those capable enough from Junior Band. Children can progress to the Concert band through an audition process which will take place early in Term 1, 2009. It is envisaged that this band will develop a broader repertoire of concert pieces with increased degree of difficulty and complexity. Concert Band will aim to tour somewhere each year. In the past, these tours have taken the Concert Band to such destinations as The Upper Hunter Valley, Wollongong, the Central Coast and in 2008, Bathurst. The cost of tour may vary depending on the destination. We try to keep costs to a minimum, and will hold a Band Concert involving all bands in late Term 3 to subsidize the costs of this tour. In 2008 the cost of tour was \$200.

### **Intermediate Band**

Most 2008 Junior Band members will progress to the Intermediate band in 2009. Some students who feel they are ready can sit the audition for Concert Band and if successful, will then be invited into this band.

### **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. All new band members will be placed in the Junior Band. This Band will split into two groups for individual rehearsals and will be required to have some rehearsals as a whole leading up to performances.

New band members remain in the Junior Band for a year and progress the following year to the next level through an audition process from 2010.

## Rehearsal Times

Rehearsals will remain as they were in 2008

	<b>MORNINGS</b> (7.45 – 9am)	<b>LUNCH TIME</b>
Junior Band 1	Wed	Mon (Tara Fermor)
Junior Band 2	Tues	Thurs (Tara Fermor)
Intermediate Band	Thurs	Tues (Matthew Browne)
Concert Band	Fri	Weds (Tara Fermor)

## Band Camp

An integral part of the Band Program is a weekend Band Camp held at Narrabeen Sports Academy. The camp takes place from the Friday evening and concludes with a concert for parents on the Sunday afternoon. All band children are required to attend band camp. (Junior, Intermediate and Concert)

Tutors attend the camp and provide intensive tuition in addition to the band rehearsals held over the weekend. It is a time of great musical growth and promotes the team work which is so important for the band. It is lots of fun and is a highlight of the year for the children.

Band Camp in 2009 will be on the last weekend in Term 1. (3/4/09 – 5/4/09)

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

## Additional Band Events

Throughout the year there are various band commitments such as competitions and public performances. It is essential for all band members to attend these events. Absences need to be explained in writing to the Musical Director.

## How to Join the Band

Membership of the band is open to all students currently in Years 2-5 (2008). 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 school. Please read this document **carefully** and retain for future reference whilst your child remains in the program.

## Choosing an Instrument

All year 2 students will be assessed for their instruments 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. Junior band members are expected to purchase or hire outside of school their own flutes and clarinets.

### Brass

This group of instruments includes the trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba and french horn. Some of these may be hired from the school for one year only.

### Electronic

This group includes bass guitar (own needs to be used) and keyboard. Keyboard players will use the school's keyboard for band practice, tutorials and band performances. For this facility they are charged an annual usage fee.

### Percussion

Percussion instruments include drums, timpani, glockenspiel, xylophone and a variety of other instruments. The school's drum kit is used for band practice, and performances, for tutorials the students use the electronic kit in the tutor room.

Percussionists will also need to purchase a percussion kit which will include a practice pad, drum sticks, a glockenspiel and mallets for home use, approx \$200, which is very cheap for what you get.

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

## **Band Fees and Costs**

**Various fees are involved in the band program. The major costs involved are:**

- 1. Band Fees – these will be charged twice yearly on a semester basis in Term 1 and Term 3.**
- 2. Band Camp – This will be included in the Term 1 Invoice in 2009**
- 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 Hire or Purchase**
- 5. Smart Black performance clothes – used from Term 3**
- 6. Concert Band tour (expected to be up to \$300 in 2009)**

### **1. Band Fees**

Band expenses include fees for the Musical Directors, expenses incurred in buying and photocopying music, purchasing band books and folders, and replacing equipment.

Band fees are \$75.00 per term in 2009.

### **2. Band Camp Fees**

Band Camp fees are to cover the costs of accommodation, conductors, tutors and other band expenditure for the camp.

Band camp fees are expected by the music committee to be approximately \$200 in 2009.

### **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 various ways you can do this.

- **Lessons at School**

The Music Committee has developed an extremely successful tutorial program where talented, professional peripatetic 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. Lessons at school in 2009 will be \$30 per half hour weekly lesson, based on a full term commitment. The tutor will be contracted for the term, not on a week to week basis and will be invoiced week 2 of each term from 2009. (Some tutors may charge GST on top of this flat rate, depending on their working arrangements). Lessons during school hours will only be available to children who are part of the band program

#### **Arranging your own Tutor**

Parents may arrange to have lessons with a private tutor.

#### 4. Instrument Hire or Purchase

- 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 Ph: 9557 4588  
3/155 Parramatta Rd, Camperdown

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

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

Drum City 65 Penshurst St, Willoughby, 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 school has a small but growing number of instruments for hire, which will be offered to new junior band members. These are rented out at a lower rate than commercially hired instruments and are rented for one year only.

#### Instruments for hire currently owned by the Music Committee

Tier 1 - Instruments	Tier 2 - Instruments	Usage Only
Bass Guitar	2 x Euphonium	Amplifier x 2
	2 x Tenor Saxophone	Drums
6 x Trumpet	3 x Alto Saxophone	Keyboard
5 x Trombone		Glockenspiel
	1 x French Horn	Xylophone
	2 x Bass Clarinet	Timpani x 2

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



### **School Instrument Hire Fees**

The cost of hiring a school instrument depends upon the instrument hired.

**Tier 1** instruments are currently \$50.00 per term plus a refundable bond of \$150 per instrument.

**Tier 2** instruments are currently \$60.00 per term plus a refundable bond of \$150 per instrument.

Parents hiring a school instrument are asked to sign an indemnity form at the start of the school year and pay a \$150 refundable bond.

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

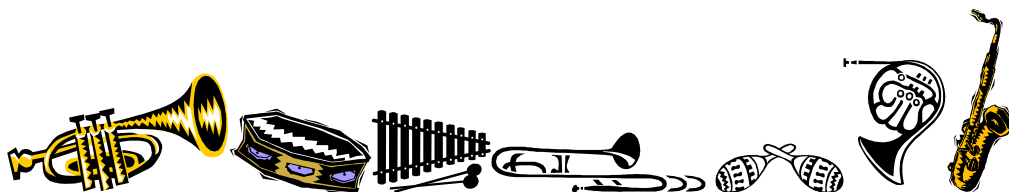
**After one year of hiring a school instrument, you will need to hire or purchase elsewhere to make instruments available to the new junior band children.**

### **Payment of Fees**

Band members receive an invoice from the Music Committee twice a year to cover Band Fees, Band Camp, School Instrument Hire. Fees are sent out in Term 1 and Term 3. There will be a **10% discount** if the full years fees are paid in advance. Late fees will be imposed on payments outstanding for more than 60 days.

**Tutorial Fees are invoiced by each tutor and are paid directly to tutors not to the school.** Fees are set at \$30 per lesson (Plus GST where applicable) for 2009 and will be invoiced week 2 of each Term in 2009.

All our tutors at school are qualified professional musicians. Tara Fermor will be the co-ordinator for the 2009 Tutorial Program. **All enquiries in regard to lessons are to be made directly to Tara Fermor. (0419233134)**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Will my child be offered a place in the band?***

The school Band Program is a major part of Cammeray School 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 sms the Musical Director or provide a note the following rehearsal.

### ***Are the instruments insured?***

All musical instruments owned by the school are now covered by the school insurance policy against theft, fire, malicious or accidental damage anywhere in the world.

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

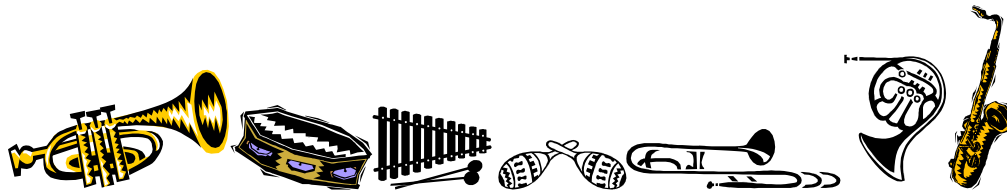
Children entering the band program need to understand they are making a commitment to themselves and the school band. It takes 8-10 months to start getting a grasp on a musical instrument. **The commitment to the band is for a minimum of ONE YEAR. The student must learn, through your support, to fulfil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





## Cammeray Public School Band Handbook 2009

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