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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our school’s Concert Band & Instrumental Music Programme. This booklet explains how the programme is run and includes information for parents and students with space for contact details.

The success and continuation of the band programme relies on parental involvement and examples of how you can be involved and support your child’s musical education are included.

The school band programme is made up of two components:-

- Individual music lessons
- Band practice & performance
MUSIC LESSONS
The school band programme provides students with the opportunity to play their instrument in a group environment.
Individual tuition cannot be provided during band rehearsals and, as such, students will be required to have music lessons for their instruments on a weekly basis. This is important not only to help the student learn to play their instrument, but will also ensure that playing in the band is an enjoyable experience!
Music lessons should also support the music that is being played in the band programme and provides an opportunity for the student to practice band pieces under the supervision of an instructor.

MUSIC LESSON OPTIONS
Individual lessons for band students can be held at school. These may be held before, after or during class time upon negotiation by parent/guardian and music teacher.
A contact list for music tutors that have approval to teach at the school has been included with this booklet.
Alternatively, music lessons may be arranged with other tutors in your own time.

INSTRUMENTS
There are several options regarding instruments:

1. School Instrument Hire: The band programme has acquired a range of instruments to enable students to hire directly from the school. Some instruments will be available for students entering New Band, while other more advanced instruments are usually available to Concert Band members.

Interested students and parents are invited to apply in writing if they wish to hire a school instrument. Terms and conditions apply and this information is provided on a separate information sheet.

2. Purchase your own instrument: Choices include local, Sydney or internet retailers. Instruments can also be hired or bought on a purchase plan from some instrument retailers such as Landers Music in Orange and Harmonikas Music in Bathurst. It is worth shopping around and always seek the advice of your Band Director before making a purchase if you are unsure.
3. **Second Hand Instrument**: As the quality of second hand instruments can vary immensely, we recommend you seek the advice of the Band Director or your music Teacher before purchasing a particular instrument to avoid disappointment, particularly if purchasing from the internet.

**Percussion/Keyboard Students**: will not need to purchase an instrument, as they will use the school keyboard and equipment for practices and performances. Keyboard students are expected to have access to a piano or keyboard to practice on and to continue to have lessons with their piano/keyboard teacher.

**Bass Guitar and amplifiers**: are not generally available for hire and will need to be bought. However, the school amplifier can be used for lessons and band practice/performances.

**ACCESSORIES AND CARE EQUIPMENT**
Most new instruments come with care equipment, however all students will need to ensure they have the following to keep their instrument in good working condition:

- **FLUTE**: Cleaning rod, cleaning gauze, polishing cloth.
- **CLARINET, SAXAPHONE & OBOE**: Reeds are on ongoing expense – available from the school canteen, cork grease, pull through cleaning cloth.
- **TRUMPET & BARITONE**: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth
- **Trombone**: Slide oil or slide cream, water spray bottle, polishing cloth, tuning slide grease.
- **French horn**: Key oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth.

**REPAIRS**
Your child will be taught how to look after their instrument. This usually happens during the first individual lessons. You are very welcome to come and learn how to maintain the instrument in good working order. If you have any problems with your instrument, please talk to your music teacher, Band Director or a committee member if you have a school hire instrument.
**BAND**

**BAND STRUCTURE**

There are two bands in the programme.

- The **New Band** is for students commencing in Year 3 and or are in their first year of music training.

- The **Concert Band** caters for students with prior musical knowledge and students that are ready to progress from New Band, as determined by the Band Directors.

There may be opportunities for talented students to participate in other extension ensembles. *Serious Fun* (the combined public schools stage ensemble) and *Bemused* clarinet & flute ensemble are two examples of very successful programmes where Eglinton band students have been invited to audition and participate. These programmes provide an excellent opportunity for band students to play alongside students from other schools, often forming friendships that are carried into high school and beyond.

**BAND PRACTICE**

Band practice is held at the school hall before school from 8.30 – 9.30 am once a week.

New Band and Concert Band practice on separate mornings. These days are determined at the beginning of the year in accordance with the Band Directors’ availability. In Term 4 the bands combine so that students may practice as one group to assist with the transition from New Band to Concert Band in the following year.

Students who travel to school on the country buses should go straight to the hall for practice as the buses arrive at school. Students need to bring their instrument, accessories and band folder containing their Music Book and sheet music to practices.

**MUSIC FOLDER**

Students will be issued with a Band Music folder containing the music to be played in Band. Please ensure the folder and music is looked after very carefully as the sheet music is required to be returned to the school at the end of the year. The band folder should be taken to lessons and used to practice at home.
PERFORMANCES
Both bands will have the opportunity to perform at school and in the community. This is at the discretion of the Band Director, in conjunction with the school and the band subcommittee. Our school bands have often performed at the Gymkhana, Grandparents Day, and Education Week open day, the Bathurst Eisteddfod, Presentation Day and the school Spring Concert.
All students are expected to be available for performances where reasonable notice has been given.

ABSENCE FROM LESSONS AND BAND PRACTICE
Music teachers have busy schedules! Please take the time to advise your music teacher in advance if a lesson will be missed for any reason. Discuss this with your music teacher to determine if a phone call, text message or email is the preferred method of contact and whether the lesson will be made up at another time, refundable or non-refundable.
Absences include planned school events such as excursions and sports carnivals. If your child is sick and will miss a lesson, notify the music teacher as early as possible before the scheduled lesson time.
Parents are also asked to notify the Band Director if their child will be absent from band practice. This is particularly important as rehearsal starts before school hours. The Band Director is responsible for your child during this period and students absent from practice must be accounted for. The Band Director will advise parents/guardians of the preferred method of notification for absences.

WITHDRAWAL FROM BAND
Students are encouraged to give a full year’s commitment to the band. Parents are reminded that learning a musical instrument is hard at times and you will need to encourage and support your child if they struggle or lose enthusiasm. Please talk to the Band Director or your music teacher as experience has equipped them with strategies and advice to work through such difficulties with music students. Should your child still wish to withdraw from the band, notice should be given in writing to the Band Director or secretary of the band subcommittee so that fees may be adjusted accordingly.
Written correspondence addressed to the Band may be left in the subcommittee pigeon holes at the school office.
FEES
• Fees for individual music lessons are paid direct to the music teacher/organisation that you have enrolled with.
• Terms and conditions vary and it is advised to check the details concerning your tuition.
• Band fees are paid to the School Band subcommittee. This is a not-for-profit, self funded programme.
• The band fee is invoiced per child each term and covers the costs involved with running the band programme such as conductor’s fees for practice and performances and the purchase and maintenance of musical equipment. A family discount applies where more than one child from the same family is participating in the school band programme.
• Term 1 fees also include a charge for music purchases, Band method book, music bag and music folder.
• Invoices for band fees will be emailed to parents/guardians at the beginning of each term.
• Payment can be made by internet banking or delivered to the school P&C blue box, situated at the front office. As this subcommittee is run by volunteer parents, your prompt payment is appreciated!
• Please contact the school Principal or the Band Treasurer if you need to discuss payment options or experience difficulty in meeting payments.

Important: If students will be absent from school for a prolonged period please advise the band committee in writing in advance as the fees may be adjusted.

COMMUNICATION
• Notification about band events and other ‘band specific’ information is usually given out at band practice.
• Parent Roster, band meetings and coming events etc will be placed in the school’s weekly newsletter.
• All enquiries/concerns should be made direct to the relevant Band Director or to the band subcommittee President or Secretary. In some cases it may be necessary to contact the school Principal regarding an issue.
• Remember: the Band Programme is committed to providing your child with an enjoyable musical experience. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the subcommittee, Band Director and/or Principal to seek a resolution.

BAND COMMITTEE
The Band Committee is formed at the beginning of the school year and administers the Band Programme. It is a subcommittee of the EPS P&C and usually meets monthly (or as required), before the scheduled P&C meeting for the month.

The major committee roles include:
• Band Chairperson: is to ensure that regular meetings are held, is a point of contact between parents, the committee, the Band Directors & School.
• Secretary: is responsible for taking the minutes at committee meetings, preparing reports to P&C, preparing information letters to band students and items for the school newsletter.
• Treasurer: Collects the band fees, paying expenses and maintaining the band programme’s financial records in accordance with P&C guidelines
• Librarian: co-ordinate indexing and maintaining records of the music scores and collating the Band’s archives.
• Roster co-ordinator: organise the parent roster for band practice.

STUDENTS’ OBLIGATIONS
• Give a commitment to the band for the whole year
• Attend band practice and music lessons regularly and promptly
• Practice at home
• Appropriate behaviour at band practice and at performances as representatives of the school.

PARENTS’ OBLIGATIONS
• Give a commitment to the band programme for the whole year
• Encourage their child, especially to stick with it through the fun-work barrier
• Fulfil the financial obligations promptly
• Assist with band practice roster if available
• Support the volunteer band committee if available or assist where possible
WHY JOIN THE BAND PROGRAMME?

❖ Music is a fun, rewarding and satisfying experience

❖ A well rounded education should include both sport and music - after all you can stay involved with music long after your sporting days have ended!

❖ It is the most disciplined activity at school - with music it’s either right or wrong

❖ Music is simple mathematics in a fixed time frame that can help mental arithmetic

❖ Studies have shown that music improves concentration, memory, reasoning capacity, time management skills, self expression and helps under-performing students to improve

❖ It is metronomically correct which helps develop eye-hand coordination and timing - beneficial to sporting activities

❖ Music relies on teamwork where physical domination and competitiveness is not the focus, and teaches the importance of leadership skills

❖ It promotes self confidence and self esteem through performances and builds discipline, independent learning and commitment

❖ The performances of the Band make it a most important asset to the school community - a showpiece for all to be proud of!

❖ Remember - everyone has musical ability. It is both fun and unique and will enrich your child’s life forever.
CONTACT LIST:
For your convenience please complete the following contact list as required for handy reference.

Eglinton Public School: Ph 6337 1205

New Band
Director:____________________Ph:____________________

email_______________________________________________

Concert Band Director:____________________Ph:____________

email_______________________________________________

Music Teacher’s Name:____________________Ph____________

email_______________________________________________

Lesson Time/Day:____________________________________

School Instrument Hired____________Serial No.__________

Band Committee
Chairperson____________________Ph__________________

email_______________________________________________

Band Committee
Secretary____________________Ph____________________
(for your convenience, written correspondence may be left in the subcommittee pigeon holes at the school office)

Email_______________________________________________

Band Committee
Treasurer____________________Ph____________________

email_______________________________________________