



## **WPS BAND Report - P&C Meeting Term 1: March, 2014**

**The Band Committee is pleased to present this term's report to the P&C:**

### **OVERVIEW**

This year in the Band Program we currently have 208 children from years 3 to 6 all learning to play in one of our three bands. This is even larger than last year where there were 175 students at the start of the year and, as a comparison, 131 at the start of 2012.

These are the 3 bands: Performing Band (largely made up of year 5 and year 6s), Concert Band (largely made up of year 4s), Training Band (year 3s primarily).

The band committee has 20 active parents (as well as all the volunteers who help at each event) each with individual portfolios and significant roles and contributions they will be making this year. We thank them all for their dedication to this coming year of band and are delighted to have their passion and assistance in so many of the various activities of the band program.

### **CONDUCTING TEAM 2014**

The WPS Band Program has an extremely high calibre set of conductors this year, most of whom have primary or high school university education training as well as training as musicians and being conductors.

They are patient and delightfully encouraging of the band members, know what music is needed and how students can best learn to play together. They are lead by Phil Molloy who celebrates his 10 years with WPS this year. Our bands are each so large, we now have an Assistant Conductor across all three bands.

- Mr Phil Molloy, Performing Band Director
- Mr Rob Sidaway, Concert Band Conductor
- Mr Anthony Marsden, Training Band Conductor
- Mr Damian Pigot, Assistant Conductor

### **INSTRUMENTS**

This year, in addition to hiring out all instruments in the instrument safe, with only a few spares in case of emergency, the band program has invested significantly in instruments. We have purchased instruments to the value of \$27,941 to accommodate the growing number of students in the band program. As well as some new music stands and a new mallet percussion instrument.

The Band is continuing efforts to replace aged instruments (plus 15+ years). Thanks to Ruth for her support in helping coordinate the purchases. Dickson's have proven to be both a cost-effective and responsive partner in this effort.

Issue to flag: Due to school growth, we no longer have access to the car park demountable storage area and therefore nowhere to store our second drum kit. This is particularly relevant once after school care starts up. Michelle V has been very helpful at suggesting options but we haven't yet determined the way forward.

## **EVENTS – TERM 1**

**Registration Day**, end week 1

**Sydney Detachment of the Royal Australian Navy Band**, 21 February, was a huge success as they entertained the school then did a workshop with PB. We'd love this to become an annual event.

**WGHS at The Concourse**. March 21, 6:30pm. Performing Band start with a post-lunch workshop at the Concourse with a Willoughby Girls High Band that is touring Hong Kong. They then return that evening to perform the piece and a few other pieces under the baton of Mr Phil Molloy.

**Easter Band Breakfast**, Tuesday 8 April 7:15am

Presents the first opportunity to hear all bands play, especially Training Band. It will be held in the school hall and wrapped up by 9am. The easter egg raffles are a highlight for the band members.

**Grandparents Day**, Friday 11 April

Performing Band are available and keen to participate in this year's Grandparents Day celebrations at school.

**By-Election Fundraiser**, Saturday 12 April

We are delighted to be helping host the community who come to vote at the council elections on 12 April. We plan to run a BBQ, cake stall and busking.

## **FINANCE**

The band is in a strong position having had a successful registration day with only a few remaining debtors, and we are planning to run one fundraiser per term.

As at 17/2/2014, we had \$19,979 in the Business Online saver account (the instrument account). This account is used to pay for instrument servicing during the year and to purchase new instruments for next year. All 'larger' instruments can be hired for the duration the band member is with band so these are the ones we need to continually purchase for each new band as they are growing larger.

As at 17/2/2014, we had \$37,952 in the cheque account (which is used to pay for general expenses during the year including conductors fees, entry to Yamaha).

## **TUTORIALS**

Thanks to Michelle Verhagen, Lee Dellitt from Music Partnerships and our coordinator Kate Taylor, the start to tutorials for 2014 flowed well.

This year we are coordinating tutorials all afternoons Mondays through Fridays – our most ever. We have 187 students in after-school lessons across 32 tutorial slots (up from 26 last year), 10 instrument groups and 21 tutors (up from 18 last year).

The start time of 3:15pm has been accepted well by tutors and parents and makes sense all around. Thanks to all the many teachers for wrapping up class rooms to make them available for us ... much appreciated!!

## **OTHER**

Due to the size of the band and number of families, we no longer fit at Chatswood High for Band Spectacular. We have booked Shore School for this on 5 September. With such an impressive venue, we believe this will be more spectacular than ever!

**Caroline Herrman**

**Band Convenor 2014**