



WPS BAND Report - P&C Meeting Term 1: 25 Feb, 2015

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 201 children from years 3 to 6 all learning to play in one of our three bands. This is slightly less than last year where there were 208 students at the start of the year and, as a comparison, 175 at the start of 2013 and 131 at the start of 2012.

These are the 3 bands: Performing Band (52 x Yr 5 and year 26 x Yr 6s), Concert Band (59 largely Yr 4 children), Training Band (64 mainly Yr 3s).

For 2015 an executive decision was made to cap band numbers for Training Band to 60 and have an active waiting list (with conditions). The capping is due to the increased size of our bands and low dropout rate of students. When we combine Year 5 & 6 in Performing Band, calculations for 2016 and beyond would mean close to 120 students in Performing Band. This band size is unmanageable both from a conducting point of view as well as a logistical one.

The band committee has 22 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 2015

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 celebrated his 10 years with WPS last 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 Luke Stephens, Assistant Conductor
- Mr David Brinsmead, Assistant Conductor

INSTRUMENTS

Last year we purchased new music stands and a new mallet percussion instrument.

The Band is continuing efforts to replace aged instruments (plus 15+ years) and offering the older instruments to band members to purchase, if they are in suitable condition.

EVENTS – TERM 1

Registration Day, end week 1

Harmony Day, Thursday 19 March,

The Concert Band will again entertain the school in their first performance for the year.

Easter Band Welcome, Tuesday 24 March 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, Thursday 2 April

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

NSW State Election Day BBQ Fundraiser, Saturday 28 March

We are delighted to be helping host the community who come to vote at the State elections on 28 March. 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. At the time of writing this report, I was unable to obtain current balance in either account.

The Business Online saver account (the instrument account) is the account 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.

The cheque account is used to pay for general expenses during the year including conductor's fees and entry to other band festivals.

The band received its first sponsor last year with the \$2000 from Upstairs Downstairs Conversions, The money was put towards the purchase of a Mallet Kat, a unique electronic mallet instrument that can play over 100 different instrument sounds.

TUTORIALS

Thanks to Michelle Verhagen, Lee Dellitt from Music Partnerships and our coordinator Fiona Whitten, the start to tutorials for 2015 flowed well.

This year we are coordinating tutorials all afternoons Mondays through Fridays – our most ever. We have close to 200 students in after-school lessons. The number of tutorial slots as well as the number of tutors has increased from last year.

Thanks to all the many teachers for wrapping up class rooms to make them available for us ... much appreciated!!

OTHER

After such a success with the venue last year, we have booked Shore School for the Band Spectacular on Friday 21 August.

Mandy Hyslop and Amy Tzioumis
Band Co-Convenors 2015