



WPS BAND Report - P&C Meeting Term 1: 20 February, 2019

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

OVERVIEW

The WPS band program has retained its three-band structure for 2019. While this means a larger Performing Band than in previous years, the executive felt a larger band was preferable to two smaller bands (split into year 5 and 6 students) that would be less well balanced. Three bands is also much easier to manage in terms of administration and access to rehearsal space (the band program operated with four bands in 2016-17).

Band members: We have the largest number of students to date in the band program this year, with 215 band members, up from 208 at the start of 2018. The numbers per band are as follows:

Performing Band (PB): 69 Year 5 & 6 children (up from 63 in 2018)

Intermediate Band (IB): 65 mainly Year 4 children (vs 65 in 2018)

Training Band (TB): 81 mainly Year 3 children (up from 80 in 2018)

Registration day was held on Sunday, February 3. Band members registered and paid online and only new band members and those collecting instruments were required to attend on the day. We organized instrument collection times by instrument this year, which reduced waiting times. Thanks to the band secretaries for their efforts organizing this seamless event.

Rehearsals: The rehearsal schedule is unchanged from 2018 (see below). All bands rehearse in the school hall from 7:30am. Rehearsal days are:

Training Band (TB): Thursday

Intermediate Band (IB): Tuesday & Friday

Performing Band (PB): Monday & Wednesday

We are continuing with our WPS Band practice booklet this year, after a successful launch in 2018. Practice booklets will be checked once per term and recognition given to students who demonstrate home-practice excellence. We appealed to parents at our band general meeting on February 19 to support their childrens' musical learning with regular reference to the practice booklets.

Executive: All band executive committee positions have been filled. We thank the executive for their efforts and commitment to band this year. Executive meetings are held each term, with general parent meetings held in Terms 1 and 4 and email-only updates sent out to parents in Terms 3 and 4. We continue to encourage all those who benefit from the band program to consider how they might help the executive in years to come.

CONDUCTING TEAM 2019

Our three talented conductors are continuing with us this year: Ms Kirsty Tickle, WPS band director and Performing Band conductor; Mr Anthony Marsden, Training Band and Intermediate Band conductor and assistant conductor for Performing Band on Wednesdays, and Mr David Brinsmead, assistant conductor for Performing Band, Intermediate Band and Training Band and conductor for IB on Fridays.

INSTRUMENTS

At the end 2018/beginning of 2019 a number of instruments and accessories were purchased for a total spend of \$3,815; see below for details. No further instrument purchases are expected at this point, but we will revisit later in the year once we have a better sense of student retention for 2020. We will apply for an instrument grant to help cover the cost of additional instrument purchases as needed; we applied in 2018 but were unsuccessful.

- 1 new amp to replace existing broken amp: \$558 (Dec 2018)
- 1 second hand, Single French Horn: \$1100 (Dec 2018)
- 1 Silver Trumpet: \$635 (Jan 2019)
- 1 Alto Sax to replace missing instrument: \$1395 (Jan 2019)
- 1 new Trombone Case: \$127 (Jan 2019)

EVENTS – TERM 1

Registration Day: Sunday, February 3

Grandparents Day: Wednesday, 27 March

PB and possibly IB (TBC) will participate in the Grandparents Day celebrations at school.

Easter Band Welcome: Tuesday, 9 April, 7:15am

This event provides the first opportunity to hear all bands play, especially Training Band. It will be held in the school hall and finish by 8:45am. The Easter egg raffle is a highlight for the band members, and the hot cross bun drive will run again this year.

ANZAC Day Special memorial service: Thursday, 11 April

*PB will play at a special school service to commemorate ANZAC Day, with one of our PB trumpeters playing *The Last Post*.*

FINANCE

Band balance stands at \$149,537 as at February 12, 2019, with key expenses still to be paid. The majority of band members have paid their Semester 1 fees. The band plans to apply for additional grants going forward (for instrument purchases) and will run one fundraiser per term. We will keep revisiting our fee structure to ensure we are not running at a loss.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials started in Week 3 (February 11). We have over 200 students in after-school lessons. Thank you to Joanna Limbert, Lee Dellit from Music Partnership, our tutorial coordinator Tanu Chopra, and our instrument coordinators for their efforts arranging tutorials for Term 1.

Thanks to the many teachers who make their class rooms available for our band student tutorials. Your generosity is much appreciated.

OTHER

We had to move venue for our Band Spectacular to the Concourse, Chatswood last year from the Shore School in previous years, given construction at Shore. Feedback on the new venue was very positive, given the ease of parking, access to food options, excellent back stage facilities, and wonderful acoustics. However, the Concourse is a much more expensive venue. We approached Shore to see if they could host us again this year but they were not able to offer the dates we needed. As a result, we have decided to go back to the Concourse in Chatswood, despite the higher cost. The date is locked in. We are looking forward to another wonderful event in 2019.

Heather Chopra, Melissa Gock and Nikki Templeton
Band Co-Convenors 2018

To: president@wpspandc.com.au, secretary@wpspandc.com.au
Cc: band@wpspandc.com.au