



WPS Band Report - P&C Meeting Term 2: 27 May 2020

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

OVERVIEW

Zoom hangouts have been run successfully by our Conductors for all bands in lieu of rehearsals during the COVID-19 lockdown. There are no band parent meetings in terms 2 and 3; we will communicate relevant band information to parents by email. The next face-to-face meeting with parents will be in term 4.

BAND NUMBERS

We have had a few children withdraw from band in the last few weeks. Numbers are:

Training Band: 76

Intermediate Band: 58

Performing Band: 76

Total: 209

TERM 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Term 1 has been abnormally eventful due to the introduction of a new conductor, relocating rehearsals to Laurelbank during WPS renovations, and the onset of COVID-19 precautionary measures.

We wish to thank all band families for their understanding and patience over that period, but particularly wish to note our appreciation for the following:

- All of our band volunteers who have put in significantly more time and effort so far this year given all the changes, especially our PB, IB & TB Band Co-ordinators for all of the extra time and effort managing rehearsals at Laurelbank and supervising the children's return to school in some extreme weather conditions.
- Our Conductors, for supporting and encouraging our children throughout the uncertainty and adjusting their approach according to the challenges presented. Establishing direct contact with parents via band.submissions@wpsbandc.com.au has also been appreciated.
- Daniel Musumeci at Laurelbank for very generously supporting us.
- The P&C and WPS for helping us to navigate around the ongoing renovations, in managing and storing all of the band equipment and meeting the bands needs in the new facilities.

INSTRUMENTS

No instrument acquisitions are planned for term 2. Our concern regarding the hygiene of hired instrument cases with the introduction of reusable spit towels has been noted. We

request that the towels be distributed in named ziplock bags to encourage children to limit the towel contact with the hired instrument case upholstery.

EVENTS – TERM 2

No events are planned for Term 2 given the COVID-19 situation. If rehearsals are able to resume before the end of term, and a group of parents are able to gather as an audience, we will consider Open Rehearsals only. We need to determine how to proceed with the invoicing for Band Camp, fees are due by the end of Term 2 if that event is able to go ahead.

Other Events (to be confirmed subject to restrictions/ cancellations):

In-house Band Welcome-to-Hall: TBC

Training Band Workshop held on school grounds: TBC

Band Camp (Intermediate Band & Performing Band): Sun 2 – Tues 4 August

ASBOF (All bands): Sunday 9 August

Grandparents Day (Training Band and Performing Band): TBC

NSSWE (Training Band and Intermediate Band): between Friday 11-Sunday 13 September

Band Spectacular at The Concourse, Chatswood, Tues 17 November

FINANCES

Meredith Robson has applied for The Concourse Performing Arts Subsidy for 2020/21. The grant is for up to \$5500 and, if WPS band is successful, it would cover the cost of the venue hire at The Concourse for our annual Band Spectacular.

In addition to the Bands regular expenses of Conductor costs, instrument fees and music licensing, many additional expenses have been incurred this year in fitting out the new band storage and re-configuring for occupancy of the new WPS hall. Costs include new music stands and spit towels to maintain the new Hall flooring, new filing cabinets, custom-fitting the band storage room with shelves and cabinets for instruments, and other sundry expenses. Unfortunately COVID-19 has seen the band lose its usual fundraising opportunities this year to date.

OTHER

- **Band executive positions 2021:** At the recent band executive meeting, Kate Nieland advised that she will be stepping down as Convenor next year due to change in circumstances. We will need the remaining executive and parent body to consider filling this role and any other key roles that may be vacated as parents leave the school/ committee for next year and beyond so that the band program can continue to thrive. If parent help cannot be secured, the option will be to explore partially or fully outsourcing the management of the band.

Meredith Robson, Jason Jones & Kate Nieland

Band Convenors 2020