WELCOME TO OUR BAND PROGRAM

Dear Parents,

Children who are beginner musicians in Year 2 or Years 3, 4 or 5 are invited to join our Training Band in 2016. We would like to give you some information regarding our Band Program. There are life-long benefits of being a band member. By excelling in a musical instrument your child will gain self esteem, confidence, discipline, endurance, co-operation skills and a great relationship with their peers.

At Sacred Heart Catholic School we have a growing, successful band program involving 40 students and 2 separate working bands. We enjoy playing at many concerts and school and local and community events.

If you feel your child is genuinely interested (or you would like them to be), read on!

_A Band Performance (from our current Training Band and Concert Band) will be held on Thursday 5\textsuperscript{th} November from 9.00am to 10.00am. Class groups will be in attendance and afterwards, have the opportunity to observe individual instruments and discuss with one of our current musicians their experience of learning and being part of the band._

_Parents are encouraged to attend this performance as two of our parents co-ordinators, Mrs Leonie Hilton and Mr Nick Scarf, will also be present and providing valuable input._

In electing to join our band program your child is committing to:

- learn to read music and play an instrument;
- be part of a music “team” (a role in a band is like taking a position in a sports team and attracts the same kind of responsibilities - except in band there are no reserves!);
- a yearly commitment to attendance.

These are important commitments and need careful thought. The following information may assist you.

**Training Band** – for players just starting music (**no experience required**).

   Practice times are Wednesdays 7.45am-8.45am

**Concert Band** – for those in their 2\textsuperscript{nd} year of playing and beyond.

   Practice times are Thursday 7.45am-8.45am.

Interested parents and students are also welcome to call into our morning rehearsals to see what we do!
**IS MY CHILD CAPABLE OF THIS?**
Most children have the potential to learn an instrument and enjoy the enormous benefits this brings. Studies have proven that children who learn music are advantaged academically, physically and emotionally.

However, in order to be successful it is vital that each child is given the correct guidance, beginning with the selection of an instrument. Choosing the wrong instrument is the most common factor in failure - not the lack of musical potential. A child learning the wrong instrument has to overcome a whole set of physical and mental handicaps.

For most children the best time to start learning an instrument is around 8 years old. Academic achievement is not a requirement. It is important, however, to consider your child’s readiness for learning music.

We also need to consider your child’s physical make up such as arm length, teeth, hands etc. Each instrument makes specific demands of its player, sometimes in surprising ways. For example, a flute takes more puff than a tuba - to blast not to carry!

It is also apparent that certain personalities are best suited to particular instruments. In order to advise you and your child an assessment will be made. Your own assessment of your child is also vital and we ask you to complete the attached questionnaire.

**COMMITMENT**
For most children, belonging to a band is a vital part of learning music. Your child must be willing to:

- attend weekly rehearsals;
- attend performances and workshops;
- have private tuition with a specialist teacher for 30mins a week (a tutor list will be made available);
- practise regularly;
- care for their instrument.

**WHAT DOES IT COST**
Annual Band Fee  
Approximately $350 - fees
Instrument Hire (if applicable)  
$200 – fees
Private Tuition – from $20-$45 per lesson. A list of tutors will be available to parents but lessons need to be arranged by Parents.

**If you wish your child to be involved in Band in 2016, please complete the “Expression of Interest” form below and return it to the office by Friday 13th November.**

A “physical audition” date will be held after morning assembly on a date to be advised. (Please check the school newsletter for audition date.)

At that time I will discuss with your child which instrument they would like to play, and which instrument would suit them.

I hope this has been useful in shaping your decision. I look forward to meeting your child and helping them explore an exciting new world.

Clare McFadden  
Band Director  
mcclare@tpg.com.au
If you wish your child to be involved in **Band in 2016**, please complete the “**Expression of Interest**” form and **return it to the office by Friday 13th November**.

Child’s Name: ............................................................................................................Class: ..................................................

Parent’s Name: ..................................................................................................Phone:........................................

Email: .........................................................................................................................

I give permission for my child to be assessed for Training Band 2016. Assessment will take place on 18th & 19th November 2015.

Child’s preferred instrument (if any).............................................................................................................

Signed: ............................................................................................................................Date: ..................................................

(Parent/Guardian)