Dear Parents and Carers,

Hurstville Public School offers a well-established band program in partnership with Engadine Music Education Centre. The Band Program provides students with an opportunity to learn to read music, play a musical instrument and play as part of a large band.

Joining the HPS Band Program

New band members and their families often underestimate the amount of time, money and effort involved in learning a musical instrument. The HPS Band Program involves a commitment of time, effort and financial support. As band is elective, there is no financial assistance available. All fees must be paid on time to ensure the program can continue.

Before making the commitment to join the band in 2016, please read the Band Handbook provided on our school website. It outlines the commitment and responsibilities required of students and parents.

The Band Program relies on the development of members throughout Years 4, 5 and 6. This ensures that there are sufficient numbers of musicians across all instrument sections. It is detrimental to the program if students/families decide to withdraw from the program; therefore, careful consideration should be made before auditioning. Once a commitment is made, students will be permitted to withdraw only in exceptional circumstances, and any fees must be paid for the remainder of the year.

Support from home is crucial to the development of Training Band members. Most children will progress on their instrument if they attend all tutorials and rehearsals. Students are expected to practise at home.

HPS Training Band

The Training Band consists mainly of Year 4 and Year 5 students. Students usually remain in this group for 12 months although some may be promoted earlier if their progress is outstanding. The Training Band consists of approximately 40 members. At the end of 2016, students will audition to join the Concert Band for the following year.

Member Requirements

Band members are to attend a one hour band rehearsal, currently held during class time, and one half hour small group tutorial, held before school, after school or during lunch time, and undertake home practice sessions weekly.

Students and parents must understand that membership of the band is a privilege. School work must at all times come first. If students fail to follow the expectations for school work and commitment to band, they may be asked to leave the band program.

BandTime Engadine Music Education Centre

Our experienced and talented conductors and tutors are provided by Engadine Music Education Centre’s Bandtime program. We enjoy a long and positive relationship with Engadine Music Education Centre and work collaboratively with conductors and tutors.
Costs

Lesson fees are paid directly to Engadine Music Education Centre. Please see attached audition form for costs. Engadine Music Education Centre offers hiring of instruments for a fee with a buy out option. Alternatively, you may wish to buy an instrument for your child.

Additionally, the school charges a one off band fee of $60. This covers administration time for teachers, the upkeep of musical equipment and the purchasing of pieces of music to support the band program.

Students will also be expected to purchase the band uniform from the Uniform Shop, and pay to participate in performances at a variety of locations.

The purchase of a portable music stand is desirable.

Auditioning for Training Band

Year 3 children are invited to audition for the band during Week 2, Term 4. **There is no preparation required for this test.** Students are not expected to know how to play the instrument as they will be guided by the conductor.

When auditioning students for band, our conductors consider such factors as:
- Musical Aptitude Test (aural examination)
- Student’s physical features (mouth/teeth size and shape, hand/finger size)
- Ability to make an initial sound from the instrument
- Each child’s instrument preferences
- Overall balance of instruments within the Training Band leading into the Concert Band
- Availability of instruments for 2016

In addition, factors such as organisational ability, capacity to manage time, follow directions, work as a member of a team and deal with competing workloads will be considered.

If successful in the audition, students will either be asked to join or be placed on a waiting list if no additional positions are available. The instrument a child is assigned will be determined by the conductor in consultation with the student.

If you wish your child to audition for a position in the 2016 Training Band, please return the attached audition form by **Wednesday 7th October**. Most auditions for Training Band will take place during school time on **Tuesday 13th October**. If your child is not available for the audition on that day, please indicate on the audition form and we will arrange an alternative audition date.

Successful applicants will be notified during Term 4, 2015. There will also be an information night for parents to explain the program in more detail on **Tuesday 27th October at 7pm. Please come along if you are interested.**

If you have any further enquiries regarding the band, please don’t hesitate to contact Miss Scott, at school.

Kind regards,

Mrs A. Hewson
Principal

Miss D. Scott
Deputy Principal