Information for Prospective 2014 Band Members

Connells Point Public School offers a well-established band program. The Band Program provides students with an opportunity to learn to read music and play a musical instrument.

Joining the CPPS Band Program

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

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. 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 Junior Band members. Most children will progress on their instrument if they attend all tutorials and rehearsals. Students are expected to practice at home.

Junior Band

The Junior Band is a training band that primarily consists of Year 4 students. Students usually remain in this group for 12 months although some may be promoted earlier if their progress is outstanding. The Junior Band consists of approximately 30 members. We often have more students auditioning than we have positions in the Junior Band.

Senior Band

The Senior Band consists of approximately 50 children from Years 5 and 6, who have completed at least one year in the Junior Band. Children will not be invited to join the Senior Band until they are proficient musicians.

Performing Band

The Performing Band is a smaller group of Year 5 and 6 students who audition for each place. If successful, Performing Band members are required to undertake extra rehearsals and a challenging musical program, in addition to their Senior Band commitments.
Performances

During the year, the Junior Band will have the opportunity to perform in the Engadine Bandfest and at local Pre-Schools. The Senior Band and Performing Bands have the opportunity to perform at venues such as the Engadine Bandfest, St George Performing Arts Festival, CPPS Performing Arts Showcase, Band Camp and School Ceremonies.

Member Requirements

Band members are to attend two full band rehearsals, one small group tutorial and undertake five Home Practice sessions per week. In the beginning, the home practice sessions are to be 5-10 minutes, increasing to up to 20 minutes as members progress into Senior Band. Tutors will check the progress of weekly home practice sessions.

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.

Tutoring

Members of Junior Band are tutored by experienced music tutors. The tutoring occurs in groups, either before or after school, depending on the availability of the tutor. Tutoring sessions are 30 minutes. If for any reason members cannot attend a tutorial or rehearsal, tutors would appreciate being notified. If families are willing to seek private tuition outside of school, their children would benefit greatly from the individualised instruction.

Whole Band Rehearsals

Mr Skues will instruct the Junior and Senior Bands for two sessions per week (one during school time) as well as directing the bands during the year.

Instruments

Our Junior and Senior Bands include instruments from the brass, woodwind and percussion sections. Before auditioning, parents and potential band members are asked to nominate up to three instruments.

Equipment Requirements

Instruments will be available for hire during members’ time in the school band. The hiring fee covers supply and maintenance of the instrument. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase an instrument for your child.

The purchase of a portable music stand is desirable.

Music will be supplied.
Band Uniform

*Members of the band are required to have a band uniform.* The uniform of black polo shirt and black pants is available from the uniform shop and must be worn with black shoes and black socks. A black music bag is also available from the uniform shop.

Band Fees 2014

**Junior and Senior Band**

Hire of instrument, music and tutorial fees – approximately **$170** per term paid in advance

or

Use of own instrument, music and tutorial fees – approximately **$130** per term paid in advance

Term 1 has some additional set up costs.

Auditioning for Junior Band

**Year 3 children** are invited to audition for the band commencing on **Tuesday 5 November 2013**. The students will be required to sit for a musical aptitude test. **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 Mr Skues.

When auditioning students for band, our Band Program Director, Mr Skues, considers 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 Junior Band leading into Senior Band
- Availability of instruments for 2014

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 Mr Skues along with Mr Cohen and Mrs Smith.

If you wish your child to audition for a position in the **2014 Junior Band**, please return the attached audition form by **Friday 1 November**. Auditions for Junior Band will take place during school time on **Tuesday 5 November**. If your child is not available for the audition on that day, please indicate on the return slip and we will arrange an alternative audition date.
Successful applicants will be notified by the end of Week 9 of this term and Term 1 fees will be required. There will also be an information night, early in Term 1, 2014, where a group of experienced high school and university students from the Georges River Concert Band introduce the allocated instruments to new band members and help them learn the basics.

New band members then begin tutorials and will be on a probation period until the end of Term 1. At the end of this period, each student’s interest level, performance and attitude will be gauged.

Towards the end of the first year in band, we would encourage families of Junior Band members to consider purchasing their own new or used instrument. This would be a worthwhile investment especially if students are keen to pursue a musical career beyond primary school. The school can recommend reputable instrument dealers in the local area.

If you have any further enquiries regarding the band, please don’t hesitate to contact Mr Cohen or Mrs Smith, at school.

Mrs A. Hewson                      Mr P. Cohen  Mrs L. Smith
Principal                          Band Co-ordinators
2013 Audition Application for Junior Band 2014

Child’s Name:___________________________________ Class:______

I would like my child to audition for membership of the Connells Point School Junior (Training) Band.

I understand that:
- If accepted into the band, my child will receive an instrument based on his/her ability and the needs of the band.
- I am liable for any loss or damage of instruments and music.
- My child will commit to the band program for at least 12 months with a view to a 3 year commitment throughout the duration of primary school.

Signed:_________________________________ (Parent / Carer) Date:____/____/____

My child’s first three preferences are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brass Instruments</th>
<th>Preference</th>
<th>Woodwind Instruments</th>
<th>Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxophone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baritone/Euphonium</td>
<td></td>
<td>Keyboard Bass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that students auditioning for percussion only need to place the number 1, 2 or 3 in the box next to percussion as individual percussion instruments are not chosen by students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percussion Instruments</th>
<th>Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xylophone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glockenspiel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-tuned instruments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timpani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My child has his/her own instrument which is: ______________________________

Please complete this form and return it to school by Friday 1 November 2013.