Information for Prospective 2012 Band Members

Connells Point Public School boasts a well-established band program steeped in tradition. The purpose of our band program is to provide students with an opportunity to learn to read music and play a musical instrument, developing over time into a musician. Learning to read and play music is a valued, life-long skill that can be further developed in high school and beyond. In recent years, the Junior (Training) Band has had opportunities for public performance at The Engadine Bandfest and Pre-School Visits. The Senior Concert Band is well known in the community and has performed for a variety of audiences, as well as competing in competitions and festivals. Our Senior Band members are also given an opportunity to audition for the Senior Performing Band, which has been a high quality addition to the band program.

Joining the CPPS Band Program

New band members and their families often underestimate the amount of time and effort involved in learning a musical instrument. The CPPS Band Program involves a three year commitment of time, effort and financial support. The Band Program also depends on the successful development of members throughout Years 4, 5 & 6, to ensure there are sufficient numbers of proficient 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 asking to audition. 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 and are encouraged to play at home.

Junior (Training) Band

The Junior or Training Band usually 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 (Advanced) Band

The Senior Band is our performing 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 and they must understand that their progress may depend upon the amount of home playing (practice) they undertake.

Senior Performing Band

The Senior Performing Band is a recent initiative of the CPPS Band Program. This is a smaller, select group of Year 5 & 6 students who undergo an audition at the beginning of the year. If successful, Performing Band members are required to undertake extra rehearsals and must commit to 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. Parents are always welcome to these performances. The Senior Band and Performing Bands have the opportunity to perform at venues such as the Engadine Bandfest, Combined Schools Band Concert, CPPS Performing Arts Showcase and School Ceremonies.

Tutoring

Members of Junior Band are tutored by experienced music tutors who specialise in a particular instrument section. The tutoring occurs either before school or after school, depending on the availability of the tutor. Tutoring sessions are usually 30 minutes duration. If for any reason members cannot attend a tutorial or rehearsal, tutors would appreciate being notified. Our group tutorials often have several students and personal attention is difficult to provide. If families are willing to seek private tuition outside of school, their children would benefit greatly from the small group situation.

Whole Band Rehearsals

Mr Skues will instruct the Junior and Senior band 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 sections outlined below. When auditioning students for band, our Band Program Director, Mr Skues, considers such factors as each student’s mouth/teeth size and shape, hand/finger size and ability to make an initial sound from the instrument. Before auditioning, parents and potential band members are asked to nominate up to three instruments for their audition:

Woodwind:
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone

Brass:
- Trumpet / Cornet
- Horn
- Baritone / Euphonium

Percussion: (Students auditioning for percussion will learn to play all of the instruments below over the course of the band program)
- Drums
- Timpani
- Xylophone
- Glockenspiel
- Plus a variety of un-tuned instruments
Member Requirements

Band members are to attend **two full band rehearsals per week**, as well as small group tutorials once a week. They are also required to undertake **5 Home Playing (Practice) sessions** at home per week. In the beginning, these 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. The main two conditions children and parents must understand on joining the band are that school work must, at all times, come first and that membership of the band is a privilege. Disregard for these conditions may result in removal from the band program.

Members of the band are required to have a band uniform. This is available from the uniform shop. It is the black concert band polo shirt, black pants and must be worn with black socks. There is also a matching black soft ‘music’ bag available for purchase. Further details will be provided for members, next year.

Instrument Requirements

Instruments will be available to prospective band members in the following way. Initially, unless students have their own instrument, they will be hiring one of the school’s instruments. Fees will be charged per term. This fee covers the supply and maintenance of the instrument, tutorials and provision of music. Students who own their own instrument will pay a reduced rate (See details below). **As well, new members will initially be required to purchase a tutorial book and pay a one off, set up fee. Optional is the purchase of a portable music stand.**

Band Fees 2012

**Junior & Senior Band**

Hire of instrument, music & tutorial fees - **$160** per term  
**or**  
Use of own instrument, music and tutorial fees - **$120** per term

*****Performing Band members pay an extra $25 per term.

Auditioning for the Junior Band

**Year 3 children** are invited to audition for the band next **Monday, December 5th 2011**. As part of the audition process, they will be asked what their preferred instruments are and given a trial play on the instruments. **They are not expected to know how to play the instrument as they will be guided by Mr Skues.** The students may also be required to sit for a musical aptitude test. There is no preparation required for this test.

If successful in the audition, students will either be asked to join or be placed on a waiting list if no spare instruments are available. The instrument a child is assigned will be determined by Mr Skues and Mrs Green. When students are auditioned, the following factors will be taken into consideration:

- each child’s instrument preferences
- each child’s suitability to a particular instrument - size, mouth shape, teeth, etc.
- the overall balance of instruments within the Junior Band leading into Senior Band
- the availability of instruments for 2012
Students from Year 5 and 6 who are new to the school or who may have a belated interest to join the band program may also fill in the audition form. If successful, senior students may be required to attend both Junior and Senior tutorials and rehearsals in order to gain the experience and expertise needed to perform in the Senior Band.

If you wish your child to audition for a position in the 2012 Junior Band, please return the attached audition form by Monday, December 5th. Auditions for Junior Band will take place during school time on that date. 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. There will also be an information night, early in Term 1, 2012, where a group of experienced high school and university students from the Georges River Concert Band come and 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 (or approx. 7 weeks). 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 Mrs Green, at school.

A Hewson
Principal

Mrs Hendrika Green
Band Co-ordinator
Audition Application for Junior Band 2012

Child’s Name:___________________________________ Class:_______

I would like my child to audition for membership of the Connells Point School Junior (Beginner) 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flute</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>French Horn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baritone/ Euphonium</td>
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<td>Saxophone</td>
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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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xylophone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glockenspiel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Un-tuned instruments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timpani</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyboard Bass</th>
<th>reference</th>
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My child has his/her own instrument which is:
_________________________________________________________________

Please complete this form and return it to the school office by Monday December 5th, 2011