

# GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

*Grafton Public School is committed to providing the very best educational opportunities for its students*



*"Nil Sine Labore"*

## School Band Information

# 2016



# **2016 School Band Information**

## **RATIONALE**

Grafton Primary has made a commitment to an instrumental Program for a number of years. As well as being an enjoyable activity, an instrumental program enhances thinking, maths and reading skills, which lead to increased success across all curriculum areas.

Whilst the Band performs on a regular basis, the emphasis at Grafton Primary is Education. Being part of a band program develops self-discipline, teamwork and commitment. Grafton Primary is pleased to be able to offer this program to its students.

## **WHO CAN JOIN THE BAND?**

While musical activities, including recorder, are a feature of some classrooms, the Concert Band is drawn from students in Year 2 to 6 classes.

There must be a clear intention and willingness to learn an instrument. When ready, the student is introduced to the Beginner Band and then progressed to the Senior Band. Each Band has up to 50 members and the combined Band has about 100 players.

## **WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?**

The following may be hired and taken home for practice purposes:

flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, bass guitar (limited places), trumpet

Students can also learn drums through lessons at school. (limited places)

## **WHAT CONDITIONS ARE THERE?**

**The parent must give an undertaking to be responsible for the instrument and the student must also undertake to care for the instrument and to practice regularly.**

Students need to make sure that when they come to any band or instrumental lesson their instrument is clean and in working order e.g. valves oiled, woodwind keys functioning etc. The care and maintenance of the student's chosen instrument will be explained in the first lesson.

**The student must also take weekly lessons** either privately or in a group session that is arranged by the school in conjunction with the Clarence Valley Conservatorium. Likewise, **the student must be fully engaged in the band rehearsals which occur each week.**



## WHAT FEES DO I NEED TO PAY?

Fees are subsidised and costs are kept to a minimum. If your financial situation would make it difficult for your child to be involved, **please make contact with Mrs Robertson.**

\* **PLEASE NOTE:** Outstanding fees i.e. band levy or hire costs payable to Grafton Public School OR lesson fees payable to the Clarence Valley Conservatorium will result in your student not being able to participate in the program.

**The following fees apply for 2016:**

### **LEVIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES:**

\* **All band members will be required to pay a non-refundable band levy of \$75.00 per year.**

\* Band members needing to hire a clarinet, flute, bass guitar, trumpet, trombone or saxophone will be charged a \$50.00 instrument hire levy per year (approx. \$1.25 each week).

\* Drum students will need to pay a fee of \$25.00 for the year.

**LESSONS COSTS:** The school organises group tuition which is carried out by tutors from the Clarence Valley Conservatorium.

\* **All accounts** will be handled by the Conservatorium. These lessons occur during school hours. The 2015 cost will be \$13.50 per week i.e. \$135.00 per term plus an administrative fee of \$25.00 payable to the Conservatorium. A form seeking student/parent information about address, phone number etc, will be distributed by the Conservatorium to each student joining the Band.

\* **Alternatively, parents may arrange for private lessons with a qualified tutor, though the school needs to know who the tutor is.**

The student will need to purchase '*Traditions of Excellence*', in order to play in the beginner band. Mr Keogh will be providing information regarding the book which needs to be purchased, its price and where to purchase it. It is expected that students purchase their book within the first couple of weeks of band, as this provides continuity of progress with the band. An A4 black plastic display folder for band pieces is also needed.

If the student misses a group music lesson due to other school commitments, he/she may be asked to join in on other classes of the same grade, resulting in occasional bigger classes. It is preferable to have the student catch up this way than lose out completely. The music tutors are booked with the school at specific times during the week and cannot make up lessons at other days or times.

Members are encouraged to undertake to enrol in music lessons at school, arranged by the school in conjunction with the Clarence Valley Conservatorium. Alternatively, private music lessons can be taken, and entry to the School Band undertaken in discussion with Mrs Robertson and Mr Keogh. There must be a further undertaking to promptly attend band practices and to participate in performances either at the school or away from the school.



### **HOW WILL INSTRUMENTS BE ALLOCATED?**

**The prime objective is for students to learn to play an instrument and gain enjoyment from the experience.** The appropriateness of an instrument is determined by the band leader, tutor and manager. The parent's and student's views will be considered.

Frequently one type of instrument may be exchanged for another, especially as the student progresses. In some instances a student may need to await the availability of a particular instrument. Students can learn more than one instrument, depending on availability.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD CANNOT COPE?

Discussion should be held with the tutor and the conductor, Mr Keogh or Mrs Robertson. Students who are identified as not coping, or acting irresponsibly, will be asked to withdraw from the band.

- If a decision is made for a student to cease the program, the parent must notify the Conservatorium that the student will no longer be undertaking lessons. This is not the responsibility of Grafton Public School.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PARENTS?

Parents must make an equally strong commitment to the Band and its activities. Involvement in and support of fund-raising activities is naturally expected. The running costs of the Band (including music, stands, repairs and purchases) is budgeted at \$10 000 per annum.

## WHO CO-ORDINATES THE SCHOOL CONCERT BAND?

Leigh Robertson is the co-ordinator of the program, responsible for day to day organisation, stocktaking of equipment, organisation of repairs and general management of the Band and public relations. Leigh works closely with the Conservatorium and Tim Keogh to ensure the Band program is a success.

## SUMMARY OF 2016 COSTS:

### Payable to Grafton Public School -

- **Instrument Hire (all instruments except drums): \$50.00**
- **Instrument Hire (drums): \$25.00**
- **Band Levy: \$75.00**

### Payable to the Clarence Valley Conservatorium -

- **Cost of lesson (per week) \$13.50 / (per term) \$135.00**
- **One-off Administration Fee payable to Clarence Valley Conservatorium: \$25.00**

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

**Accounts:** Clarence Valley Conservatorium on 6643 3555

**General Enquiries:** Mrs Leigh Robertson or Mr Tim Keogh by leaving a message at the Primary Office on 6642 1000



# THE SCHOOL BAND



*Performance at Manly Corso 2015*



Developing student potential through Quality Education